

Wabash Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 8, 2020

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Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.



Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabash-plaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Artists sought for Honeywell Foundation's art competition

The Honeywell Foundation's Clark Gallery will be hosting its annual 92 County Art Show from Thursday, Jan. 9 through Wednesday, Feb. 19. A public reception for this event will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. For more information, contact Michele Hughes at mhughes@HoneywellFoundation.org or call the Honeywell Center Box Office at 260-563-1102.

'Death by Chocolate' auditions set; tickets on sale

The Wabash Area Community Theater's auditions for the winter comedy "Death by Chocolate" will be held on from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, in the Honeywell Center. For the show itself, doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7; and doors will open at noon and dinner is at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, March 8. Tickets are on sale now at the Charley Creek Inn reception desk. For more information, call Bruce Rovelstad at 260-330-0543 or Bev Vanderpool at 765-661-8206.

Frances Slocum Chapter of DAR to meet

Wabash County's Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

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Local man dies in grain bin

First responders unsuccessful after cutting several large holes at base of soybean bin

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

A North Manchester man died Monday in a grain bin entrapment and Indiana 13 and County Road 850 North, Chester Township, according to a statement to the Plain Dealer from Wabash County Sheriff Department

(WCSD) Chief Deputy J. Tyler Guenin.

At around 1:22 p.m. Wabash Central Dispatch notified first responders of a possible grain bin entrapment at 8479 North Indiana 13, North Manchester, according to Guenin.

"First responder person-

nel was on-scene within four minutes of the call," stated Guenin. "Due to the level of soybeans within the bin, first responders cut several large holes at the base of the bin, and began removing the contents."

Guenin stated a St. Vincent Health StatFlight Helicopter

responded, and was on the ground during the search.

At approximately 2:14 p.m. the victim, Daniel Haupt, 66, was located but was pronounced deceased on-scene by the Wabash County Coroner's Office.

Multiple Plain Dealer requests for additional information were not returned as of press time.

WCSD Deputy Scott Campbell was the investigating officer.

Multiple emergency agen-

cies responded to assist with the rescue attempt including the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana State Police, North Manchester Police Department, Wabash County Sheriff's Office, Wabash County EMA, Parkview Health, St. Vincent Health, Wabash City Fire Department, North Manchester Fire Department, Chester Township Fire Department, Pleasant Township Fire Department and Urbana Fire Department.

Get ready for 'Bandstand'



PROVIDED PHOTO

SHOW: The Tony-winning Broadway Musical, "Bandstand," is part of the Wabash Valley Music Association Series and is playing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater. Tickets are \$45 and \$58.

Tony-winning Broadway musical coming to Honeywell Center

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

From three-time Tony winner and Hamilton choreographer Andy Blankenbuehler comes an inspiring new American musical that explodes with infectious music and high-octane, heart-stopping dancing.

It's 1945, and six soldiers return from war to a changed nation. When NBC announces a national competition to find the nation's next great musical superstars, they form a band unlike any the nation has ever seen.

Along the way, they discover the power of music to face the impossible, find their voice, and finally, feel like they have a place to call home. Show night dining available.

The Tony-winning

"So I'm akin to Indiana because I've visited a few times. So, I'm excited to be back."

— Louis Jannuzzi

Broadway Musical, "Bandstand," is part of the Wabash Valley Music Association Series and is playing at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater.

Tickets are \$45 and \$58.

In a recent phone interview, Louis Jannuzzi, who plays Wayne Wright, said his father went to Notre Dame.

"So I'm akin to Indiana because I've visited a few times. So, I'm excited to be back," he said.

After graduating from college in 2017, Jannuzzi moved to New York and put his music skills at the trombone to use.

"It's just been the right place, right time at least for me and a lot of other people in this show, and a lot of my friends who are also musicians but are also actors. Because all of a sudden, this whole new door opened up," he said. "Because when I was a kid, my mom and my dad got me into playing instruments

at a very young age, so I'm very grateful for them doing that for me because that's pretty much what led me here to being where I am today."

Jannuzzi said the audience response has been "phenomenal," especially from actual veterans.

"We've also had talk-backs where veterans have come and said their peace and they've shared their experiences with us. While we as actors can do as much research and as many conversations as we can, we have not had the experiences that some of these veterans have had in our lives. There is never enough conversation we can have with them that will make me feel sufficient in my research and passion of the show," he said.

Wolkins not seeking re-election

Republican Alan Alderfer suspends campaign to replace him

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

One of the longest-serving members of the Indiana House is among two more Republican lawmakers who've decided to not seek reelection this year.

Rep. David Wolkins (R-District 18) says he's decided to step down from the seat he's held since first winning election 32 years ago in 1988. The 76-year-old Wolkins says he's faced some health issues and that it's time to retire after this year's legislative session.



WOLKINS

Health issues cited

In a Tuesday phone interview with the Plain Dealer, Wolkins said although his health was improving, he still needed to make it a priority.

"Supposedly everything is going good. I had my last MRI last week, and things

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Experience the 'Silence of a Winter's Night'

Event planned for Jan. 25 at Salamonie Lake

STAFF REPORT

Enjoy the "Silence of a Winter's Night" from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 at Salamonie Lake's Upper Wabash Interpretive Services, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, according to a press release.

"A bowl of Three Sisters Soup will be served along with mouthwatering fry bread," stated the release. "Gather around a glowing fire for traditional Miami storytelling with members of the Miami Nation of Indiana. The evening will end with a quiet night hike through the woods."

A drawing for Miami-related door prizes will also be held.

The cost is \$10 per person, and space is limited.

Advance registration is required by calling 260-468-2127.

Red Cross reports critical need for blood donors after the holidays

Several local blood donation opportunities scheduled

STAFF REPORT

The American Red Cross currently has a critical need for blood donors of all blood types, especially type O, and platelet donors to make an appointment now to give and help replenish the blood supply after the holiday weeks, according to a press release.

Right now, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of type O blood.

Remaining Wabash County blood donation opportunities scheduled for January include:

■ 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17 at Whites Residen-

tial and Family Service, 5233 S. 50 East.

■ Noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

■ 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22 at Richvalley Community Center, 56 W. Mill St.

To help tackle the critical need, the Red Cross and NFL are working together to offer one lucky winner a trip to Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

During the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, about 500 fewer blood drives were hosted by vol-

unteer sponsor groups than required to meet patient needs. Many groups postpone blood drives during the winter holidays when travel and holiday activities may make it challenging for many donors to give. AAA estimated that a record 115.6 million Americans traveled during the holiday

Donors are urged to make an appointment to give now using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 800-RED CROSS (800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

As a special thank-you, those who come to give blood or platelets through Jan. 19 will automatically be entered for a chance to experience the Super Bowl live. The Red Cross and NFL have teamed up to offer one winner two tickets to Super Bowl LIV, entry to the official NFL Tailgate, tickets to Super Bowl Experience at the Miami Beach Convention Center, round-trip airfare to Miami, three-night hotel accommodations at The Alexander - All Suite Oceanfront Resort (Jan. 31 to Feb. 3), and a \$500 gift card for expenses.

For more information, visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl.

Ex-homeless woman gives free meals

KOKOMO (AP) — A 70-year-old woman who was once homeless is leading an effort to help others who are enduring similar financial hardships by giving away thousands of free sack lunches in a central Indiana city.

Linda Butler said she hands out hundreds of sandwiches to people riding the trolleys in downtown Kokomo on the last Friday of every month, and she has done so since October 2018.

“We give it to them because I know they’re the ones who need it,” Butler told the Kokomo Tribune of the outreach effort she named Feed My People. “I’ve lived on the street before, and I know the kinds of things those people need.”

Butler said she had wanted to help those struggling to

make ends meet for some years but never had the money or resources to do it. However, that changed when she met a woman named Gale Williams. After they talked, Williams agreed to purchase the supplies for Butler to make sandwiches to hand out to the needy.

Then others joined the effort. Kay French, 69, met Butler at church and decided to help make the sandwiches and contribute money for the outreach.

The notion of feeding the hungry resonated with French because of her childhood. French said she knows her mother regularly went without food so she and her nine siblings could eat.

“I saw my mother put food on the table. Sometimes it wasn’t much,” she said. “But

she’d just watch and we’d ask, ‘Mom, aren’t you going to eat?’ She’d just say she wasn’t hungry ... Because of my experience, I knew I wanted to help. To get involved in something like this was a no-brainer for me.”

Butler and French meet at Kokomo Manor every month to make 50 peanut butter and 50 bologna sandwiches. Another volunteer adds in a bag of chips. In December, they began including a small candy bar and some mints.

Clara Idle, a dispatcher at the trolley station who has witnessed the outreach, said it is inspiring to see Butler give bus riders free sandwiches.

“I think the people appreciate it,” Idle said. “She’s trying to help as much as she possibly can and give back to the community.”

WOLKINS

Continued from Page A1

are getting better,” he said. “That was one of the decisions I made. I need to get my health back in shape.”

Wolkins has been chairman of the House Environmental Affairs Committee for several years, often frustrating activists who want tougher state anti-pollution laws.

His retirement announcement follows the same decisions by GOP House Speaker Brian Bosma, who’s will leave the Legislature after 34 years, and Republican Rep. Woody Burton of Whiteland, who was first elected with Wolkins 32 years ago.

Republican Rep. Ron Bacon of Chandler also won’t seek election again and will complete a decade representing an Evansville-area district. Bacon was previously a member of the Warrick County Council and was the county coroner.

Candidate also drops out

Wolkins said he didn’t have a particular candidate in mind to support to replace him next year.

“At this point, I haven’t gotten anybody,” he said.

In a phone interview last week, Republican Alan Alderfer of Warsaw announced his intentions to seek Wolkins soon-to-be-vacant District 18 seat.

However, in a Tuesday statement to the Plain dealer, Alderfer stated he was suspending his campaign for the May primary election.

“After much contemplation, I have decided to suspend my campaign,” he stated. “I went into this experience wanting to listen to the community and help come up with solutions to the various issues that



ALDERFER

affect all of us. Family values are the core of who I am. My daughters have questioned me about not being home and being on the phone all the time while working on campaign issues. My daughter Katherine’s medical condition has been worsening over the last six months and her treatments have changed substantially over the last month. I don’t feel the added stress of this campaign is fair to her and her twin sister, Caroline. I would like to thank this amazing community for all the support you have given to me through this experience. I firmly believe in hard work, strong families, and spiritual values. I also want to thank Kent Adams for his encouragement and guidance. Going forward, I plan to continue focusing my time and energy on my passion for helping Riley Families, the Merit Officers of the Kosciusko County Sheriff’s Department, the Clients of Alderfer Bergen and my family.”

PULSE

Continued from A1

will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14 at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave. The program will be presented by Beverly Ferry, CEO, Living Well in Wabash County. Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. For more information, call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Barbara Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Woman's Clubhouse January luncheon set

The Women’s Clubhouse will host the monthly luncheon and program on “The Tradition Dulcimer” by Dan Daniels, New Traditions Dulcimer, at noon Tuesday, Jan. 14. This program is sponsored by Borders and Beyond. Please make reservations by phone to Carol McDonald at 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613.

Wabash Tri Kappa to sponsor Winter Gala

The gala will take place Saturday, Feb. 1, at Heartland REMC, 250 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person and must be purchased by Tuesday, Jan. 28. Tickets may be purchased from Tri Kappa Members or at the following locations: Wabash City Hall, 202 S. Wabash St.; Friermood Tire & Alignment, 1699 Stitt St.; and the dental office of Dr. Bing M. Fowler DDS, 1911 S. Wabash St. For more information, call Beth Miller at 260-563-1128.

February Salamonie Senior Luncheon set

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, Feb. 3, at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend. Upper Wabash Interpretive Services interpretive naturalist Lynnanne Fager will share her personal experiences with Indiana bald eagles. The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Chicken and noodles and mashed potatoes will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their own table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted.

Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

Low Impact Fitness classes scheduled

Fitness that is both fun and free led by Mary Jo McClelland at 9:45 a.m. every Monday and Thursday, and 3 p.m. Wednesdays at Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. There is no fee or registration required.

Cancer care advocate available every Tuesday

A cancer care advocate is available from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday at the Winchester Senior Center, 239 Bond St. No appointment is needed. This service is supported by the Hope Foundation and provided by Cancer Services out of Fort Wayne.

Yoga classes scheduled on Tuesdays

Yoga for those who are intermediate to experienced levels have been scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays at the Living Well Winchester Center, 239 Bond St. The cost is \$10, and discount passes are available.

DivorceCare to meet every Tuesday

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to a press release. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m.

at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St. on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Komets game to celebrate Wabash County

Wabash County will be the MVP during the third annual Wabash County Night at the Fort Wayne Komets game at 8:05 p.m. Friday, March 13 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave., Fort Wayne. While supplies last, tickets can be bought for \$15 per ticket at https://groupmatics.events/event/Wabashcommunity3 or by emailing Mitch Meinholz at mitch@komets.com or by calling 260-482-6812.

Wabash Kiwanis Club Pancake Day returns

The Wabash Kiwanis Club will once again host its annual Pancake Day, which is the local service organization’s largest annual fundraiser. The event will take place from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 14 at the Bruce Ingraham building at the Wabash County Fairgrounds, located just off of Gillen Avenue. Tickets will be \$8 at the door and \$7 in advance for those ages 13 years and older, and \$5 at the door and \$4 in advance for children ages 6 to 12 years. Admission for the event will be free for children 5 years and younger.

Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

Roxy 5 Showtimes for Thursday, January 3 - Thursday, January 9
All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Star Wars: Episode IX - The Rise of Skywalker in 2D (PG13)
Fri-Sat: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50, 9:10, 9:55
Sun-Thurs: 12:25, 3:25, 6:10, 6:50
Mon: 6:10, 6:50
Tues: 6:10
Wed: 6:10, 6:50
Thurs: 6:10

Spies in Disguise (PG)
Fri-Sat: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40, 9:30
Sun: 12:45, 3:45, 6:40
Mon-Thurs: 6:40

Jumanji: The Next Level in 2D (PG13)
Fri-Sat: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05, 10:05
Sun: 1:10, 4:05, 7:05
Mon-Thurs: 7:05

Little Women (PG)
Fri-Sat: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30, 9:40
Sun: 12:35, 3:35, 6:30
Mon-Thurs: 6:30

Frozen II in 2D (PG)
Fri-Sun: 12:55, 3:55
Tues: 6:50
Thurs: 6:50

For more information please call
765-460-5322
or visit us online at www.roxyperu.com
Located at 100 Roxy Lane, North edge of Peru

5-Day Weather Summary

Wednesday Mostly Sunny 28 / 20	Thursday Scattered Rain 48 / 38	Friday Rain Likely 52 / 41	Saturday Rain Likely 43 / 28	Sunday Mostly Cloudy 37 / 31

Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:37 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 8:12 a.m.

Full 1/10	Last 1/17	New 1/24	First 2/1

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 28°, humidity of 50%. Southwest wind 3 to 15 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 20°. East southeast wind 6 to 16 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 16°.

Cycling offers many benefits with low impact

DEAR DOCTOR: My company provides perks for involvement in its wellness program, and I’ve decided to start biking the 4 miles (with a few hills!) to work. Do you think it’s a good choice? Any advice for getting started?

DEAR READER: First, congratulations for making this positive change in your life. Cycling is a terrific activity with multiple health benefits. Exercise, in general, has been shown to help boost energy; improve mood; reduce the risk of a range of diseases, including heart disease and certain cancers; maintain a healthy weight; add to strength, agility and flexibility; and aid in sleep.

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier Ask the Doctors



As you cycle the 4 miles to and from work, you’ll use an impressive range of muscle groups. These include the hamstrings and quadriceps, which are the two major muscles in the legs; the calf muscles; the gluteals, which are the trio of muscles that make up the buttocks; the core muscles of the abdomen; and to a lesser degree, the muscles of the upper body. Conquering those hills will get your heart and lungs working and help build strength, stamina and endurance.

Cycling is an excellent resistance activity, which means it’s good for bones and bone density. It’s also a low-impact activity, so it’s kind to the joints. And the hundreds of tiny decisions needed to navigate a route and negotiate traffic help keep you mentally sharp. By the time you wheel into work after 30 to 45 minutes on the bike, you’ll have a nice endorphin glow with which to start your day.

The two main things to consider are conditioning and safety. If you haven’t been cycling on a regular basis, start by making sure your bike fits you properly

and is in good repair. Your local bike shop can help you with that. Start training with short rides, gradually building up until you’re comfortable with your daily commute. The goal is to improve physical conditioning and also to become comfortable on the bike and out on the roads. Age plays a role as well. Once we hit our 40s, our muscles don’t perform at the same level as in our younger days. For older riders, this means more time to build strength, and longer to recover.

The main risks of cycling come from run-ins with motor vehicles, so you want to focus on safety. Always obey the rules of the road; for instance, be sure to ride with traffic, not against, and signal your

turns. A common refrain from drivers is that they didn’t see the cyclist until it was too late. So make yourself as visible as possible with bright colors and reflective gear. In low light or darkness, make yourself known with reflectors, a white front light and red rear light on your bike, and again, reflective gear. And always – this is non-negotiable no matter how short a distance you plan to ride – wear a good helmet. It can save your life.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.



Wabash Plain Dealer

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Daniel Dean Hauptert

Feb. 8, 1953 - Jan. 6, 2020

Daniel Dean Hauptert, 66, of rural North Manchester, Indiana, died at 2:14 pm, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, doing what he loved working on the farm. He was born Feb. 8, 1953 in Wabash, Indiana to Dean M. and Lois Nadine (Wagner) Hauptert.



Dan was a 1971 graduate of Northfield High School and attended Vincennes University. He married Roxanne Story in Wabash on August 18, 1974. Dan was a member of the Urbana Yoke Parish and a past member of the Urbana Lions Club, and Pork Producers. He enjoyed farming which was his life, sudoku puzzles, old tractors, traveling, and especially his grandchildren and their activities.

He is survived by his wife, Roxanne Hauptert of North Manchester, three children, Ryan (Michelle) Hauptert, Tara Hauptert, and Lisa (Dan) Sarll, all of Wabash, six grandchildren, Libby Hauptert, Meredith Hauptert, Lucas Hauptert, Danielle Sarll, Noah Sarll, and Elijah Roark, all of Wabash, parents, Dean M. Hauptert and Lois Hauptert of Urbana, five siblings, Steven (Kathy) Hauptert of Urbana, Denise (Tom) Gillespie of Battleground, Indiana, Shelley (Walker)

Conley of Rochester, Indiana, Tom (Janet) Hauptert of North Manchester, and Neil A. Hauptert of Wabash, and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Brent Hauptert.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Rev. Larry Wade and Pastor Erin Huiras officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 4 - 8 p.m., Friday at the funeral home.

Preferred memorial is Northfield F.F.A. The memorial guest book for Daniel may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

SpaceX launches 60 more satellites, trying to tone them down

BY MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX launched 60 more mini internet satellites late Monday, this time testing a dark coating to appease stargazers.

It's a "first step" compromise between SpaceX and astronomers fearful of having dark skies spoiled by hundreds and, eventually, thousands of bright satellites circling overhead.

The Falcon 9 rocket blasted into a cold, clear night sky, recycled by SpaceX for its fourth flight. As the first-stage booster flew to a vertical landing on an ocean platform, the Starlink satellites continued hurtling toward orbit to join 120 similar spacecraft launched last year.

Flight controllers applauded, and the launch commentator described the booster's fourth touchdown as "awesome." An hour later, all 60 satellites were free of their upper stage and making their own way in orbit. "It's a beautiful sight," the commentator observed.

His Starlink fleet now numbering 180, SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk plans to ultimately launch thousands of these compact flat-panel satellites to provide global internet service. Each spacecraft is just 575 pounds.

After the first Starlink batch of 60 was launched in May and the second in November, astronomers complained how the bright satellite chain was hampering their observations. In response, SpaceX came up with a darkening treatment to lessen reflectivity. The coating is being tested on one of the newly launched satellites.

Jeff Hall, director of the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, said the Starlinks have been just an

occasional problem — so far — but noted the risk to stargazing will grow as the constellation expands and other companies launch their own fleets. He heads the American Astronomical Society's committee on light pollution, space debris, and radio interference, and is working with SpaceX on the issue. The matter is on the agenda, in fact, at the society's conference in Hawaii this week.

"Anything that darkens the satellites is a step in the right direction," Hall said in an email Monday. He said it's too soon to know whether the dark coating will work, "but it definitely is just a first step and not enough to mitigate the issues astronomy will experience with the Starlinks."

The Starlinks are initially placed in a relatively low orbit of 180 miles, easily visible as a long, strung-out cluster parading through the night sky. Over a few months, krypton-powered thrusters raise the satellites to a 340-mile orbit.

The higher the orbit, the less visible the satellites are from the ground, according to SpaceX. Even so, SpaceX said it's supplying astronomy groups with the satellite coordinates in advance, so they can avoid the bright flyover times.

Already established in launching satellites for others and making space station deliveries for NASA, SpaceX is among several companies looking to provide high-speed, reliable internet service around the world, especially in places where it's hard to get or too expensive. Others include Jeff Bezos' Amazon and OneWeb.

SpaceX may start service later this year in the northern U.S. and Canada, then expand to the world's most populated areas after 24 launches.

Trump tests Congress' war powers with Iran strike

BY LISA MASCARO
and DEB RIECHMANN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's confrontation with Iran is posing a gut check for Congress, brazenly testing whether the House and Senate will exert their own authority over U.S. military strategy or cede more war powers to the White House.

As tensions rise at home and abroad, Speaker Nancy Pelosi will hold House votes this week to limit Trump's ability to engage Iran militarily after the surprise U.S. airstrike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani. A Senate vote is expected to soon follow.

Yet Congress has shown time and again it is unable to exert its ability to authorize — or halt — the use of military force. With their inaction, lawmakers have begrudgingly allowed the commander in chief to all but disregard Congress.

"I think this president has pushed this to the limit with action that has a huge, escalating effect," said Scott Anderson, a former attorney in the State Department's legal office and former legal adviser for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. "Maybe this will push Congress to make it a priority. ... Anything short of legislative action doesn't mean anything."

The showdown between the White House and Capitol Hill provides the latest example of how Trump's willingness to break the norms in Washington is setting new standards in governance.

Ahead of the attack that killed the Iranian general, the president did not consult with congressional leaders. In the

aftermath, he refused to make public his justification for the airstrikes.

Facing an outcry, Trump scoffed that his tweets should provide adequate updates to Congress, regardless of what is required by law.

Republicans have largely supported Trump's actions, saying the president was well within his power to take out Iran's architect of proxy operations against Americans in the Middle East. The U.S. considered Soleimani a terrorist.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Monday there's plenty of time for lawmakers to learn more about the president's reasoning for the attack. He complained that Democrats "rushed to blame our own government before even knowing the facts, ... rushed to downplay Soleimani's evil while presenting our own president as the villain."

But Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Monday, "It is essential for Congress to put a check on this president."

Jack Goldsmith, a professor at Harvard Law School, said both parties in Congress have for years gone along with an expansion of presidential war powers, especially with regard to the conflicts in the Middle East.

"In short, our country has — through presidential aggrandizement accompanied by congressional authorization, delegation, and acquiescence — given one person, the president, a sprawling military and enormous discretion to use it in ways that can easily lead to a massive war," Goldsmith said in an essay in Lawfare, an online newsletter he co-founded.

"That is our system: One person decides."

Past presidents at least signaled a nod to the legislative branch, which has the sole power under the Constitution to declare war, knowing they would need to ask Congress to pay for military operations. It's one way the founders sought to keep the executive in check.

But Congress has allowed its role to erode since the passage of Authorization for Use of Military Force in 2001 to fight terrorism after the Sept. 11 attacks, and passage of another AUMF for the invasion of Iraq in 2002.

The fallout from those votes has deeply divided Congress and the nation, with many lawmakers, particularly Democrats, now saying they were mistakes. Yet lawmakers have been paralyzed on the question of whether to repeal or change those authorities.

Only after U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi was killed last summer in a gruesome murder at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Turkey did Congress muster the resolve to slap restrictions on U.S. involvement with the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

It was a rare exertion of authority from Congress, the first since the passage of the War Powers Act of 1973. And Trump promptly vetoed it.

"There's no question the president has gotten stronger over time, the Congress less strong," said Wendy Sherman, a former undersecretary of state in the Obama administration and chief negotiator of the Iran nuclear deal.

"This is a president who we know makes decisions

by impulse and without any deliberative process," said Sherman, who now directs the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School. "Ceding all this power to an impulsive president ... puts our national security at risk."

Pelosi announced the House will vote this week on a resolution from Rep. Elissa Slotkin, D-Mich., a former CIA and Defense Department official, that would require an end to the action against Iran unless Congress votes to authorize it.

Similar legislation passed the House last year but failed in the Senate. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is pushing it again this year and plans to force a vote that could come as soon as next week.

"I think this president doesn't care about Congress," Kaine told The Associated Press. "But the president is deeply concerned and to the point of insecurity about his own personal popularity. And I think a vote by Congress on a matter like this is ultimately a demonstration — well, what does the American public think? Should we be in another war in the Middle East?"

On Monday, Schumer and Sen. Robert Menendez, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called on Trump to declassify "in full" his notification to Congress over the weekend justifying the strikes.

Under the War Powers Act, the White House has 48 hours to notify Congress of such actions. Pelosi said it was "highly unusual" for the information to be entirely classified and is demanding a full briefing for Congress.

McConnell: GOP will start impeachment trial, delay witnesses

BY LISA MASCARO,
MARY CLARE JALONICK
and ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday he has the votes to start President Donald Trump's impeachment trial as soon as Speaker Nancy Pelosi releases the documents, winning support from GOP senators to postpone a decision on calling witnesses.

McConnell could launch the third impeachment trial in the nation's history this week if Pelosi sends the articles of impeachment to the Senate. She is set to meet late Tuesday with her leadership team.

"We have the votes," McConnell told reporters. He said the question of new witnesses and documents will be addressed later "and not before the trial begins."

The contours of a Senate trial have been in dispute. Pelosi is delaying transmission of the articles as Democrats press to hear from former national security adviser John Bolton and other new witnesses. McConnell has resisted.

The GOP leader told senators at their closed-door lunch Tuesday that he has support for his plan, which is modeled after President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial 20 years ago. It would start the trial first and postpone votes on witnesses until later in the process.

"He has 51 (votes), for sure," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a top ally of the

president, exiting the meeting. Republicans hold the majority in the Senate, 53-47.

Democrats are ramping up pressure on Republicans not to go along with McConnell's proposal to postpone voting on new testimony. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called it a "trap" and a "cover-up."

"Whoever heard of a trial without witnesses and documents?" the New York Democrat said. He asked Trump what he has to hide. "Witnesses and documents: fair trial. No witnesses and documents: cover-up."

Just four GOP senators would be needed to deny McConnell his majority, but he appears to have locked up the votes. GOP leaders were conducting a whip count Tuesday to gauge support. Several GOP senators have indicated they want to hear from Bolton and other witnesses, but they are nevertheless standing with McConnell's plan for starting the trial.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said Tuesday that the Clinton process "provided a pathway" to start the trial and consider witnesses "down the road." He said he supports it.

"I'm comfortable with that process," Romney said. "And at this stage, I'd like to hear from John Bolton and other witnesses with the right information, but that process will accommodate that."

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, has also said she supports McConnell's approach.

Others say they are not sure they even need to hear from Bolton or other witnesses, blaming the House for not forcing them to testify. Trump had instructed White House officials not to comply with the House investigation.

"It's not that I don't want to hear from him," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. "I want to hear from him when the House is willing to do their work and have the same agreement with the ambassador on their side of the Hill."

Trump faces charges that he abused the power of the presidency by pressuring Ukraine's new leader to investigate Democrats, using as leverage \$400 million in military assistance that is critical for the ally as it counters Russia at its border.

The funding for Ukraine was eventually released but only after Congress intervened.

From the Oval Office, where Trump was meeting with the prime minister of Greece, he railed against the impeachment proceedings, as he often does, as "a totally partisan hoax witch hunt."

Trump insisted "there was absolutely nothing done wrong" in his interactions with Ukraine.

Republicans are expected to swiftly acquit Trump of the charges, but Democrats say fresh evidence, including Bolton's willingness to testify, only increases pressure for new witnesses and documents.

Bolton apparently compared the administration's actions toward Ukraine to a "drug deal" he wanted no part of, a shadow diplomacy being concocted by the acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney and Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland, according to House testimony. Bolton left the administration in September.

Democrats also want documents about the withheld aid to Ukraine that the White House refused to turn over to House investigators, defying congressional subpoenas.

With a 53-seat majority, McConnell has only loose control over the impeachment proceedings, where decisions on witnesses or documents can be made with a 51-vote majority.

Pressure will mount on senators up for reelection from swing states in 2020, including Collins, Tillis, Iowa GOP Sen. Joni Ernst and Colorado GOP Sen. Cory Gardner, who are being closely watched for their votes by a deeply divided country. Protesters are showing up at the Capitol.

McConnell deflected a question Tuesday on whether Trump acted appropriately with Ukraine, saying he had nothing more to add on that issue. He acknowledged the votes on witnesses and documents will be "the most contentious" part of the proceedings. "There will be, I'm sure, intense discussion," he said.

speak up

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://coats.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

letters guidelines

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 123 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaineader.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

inspiration corner

Daily scripture

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Phillipians 3:20

our take

An attack on democracy

As the 2020 legislative session begins, local newspapers are under attack.

Fights between the press and politicians are nothing new, especially when you consider newspapers act as a watchdog of the government. Luckily, our founding fathers recognized the need to put protections in place that keep the public informed of government affairs – even though our leaders in Indiana are working hard to roll back protections for taxpayers.

This year, Indiana politicians are once again on a crusade to save a dollar at the cost of public transparency and accountability as they plan their battle to change requirements for legal notices in Indiana.

As many readers know, the government is required to pay the market-rate price for space taken up in local newspapers to publish legal notices that keep the public informed of things that affect their lives. For example, the government is required to publish notices of tax increases, project plans, confined feeding operations moving into town and things related to the environment and public health.

Last year, the Indiana Senate tried to do away with legal advertisements in newspapers for sheriff's sales. (These notices advertise homes and properties being foreclosed on or being sold for unpaid taxes.)

While these notices don't seem that important to the average person, these notices are often the last

protection for the elderly, disabled, uneducated or people abroad, like our service members overseas. It keeps the community in the loop about who is in jeopardy of having their home taken, and it also allows local families to bid on properties being sold to the highest bidder, which often end up going well below market value and to outside investors.

It also increases the pool for potential bidders on the property, which protects the person being foreclosed on. Arguably, hiding the notices on government websites would help the house flippers and big companies who'd rather have less competition – along with the banks who currently pay for the notices.

These aren't the only notices being targeted. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management wants to stop advertising notices about polluters moving into city limits and other environmental affairs in local newspapers, and some legislators want to allow the government to post all notices on their websites, where the typical Hoosier never clicks.

So far this year, Indiana Rep. Dave Wolkins, who represents Wabash and Grant counties, has already announced plans to revive a bill from last year that would set rates for public notices, which is surprising since he claims to believe that "the best government is a small government," according to a statement on his Indiana House

Republican's website.

It's shocking that so many Republican senators are in favor or allowing the government to set rates for private businesses, especially when newspapers are vital to a healthy democracy.

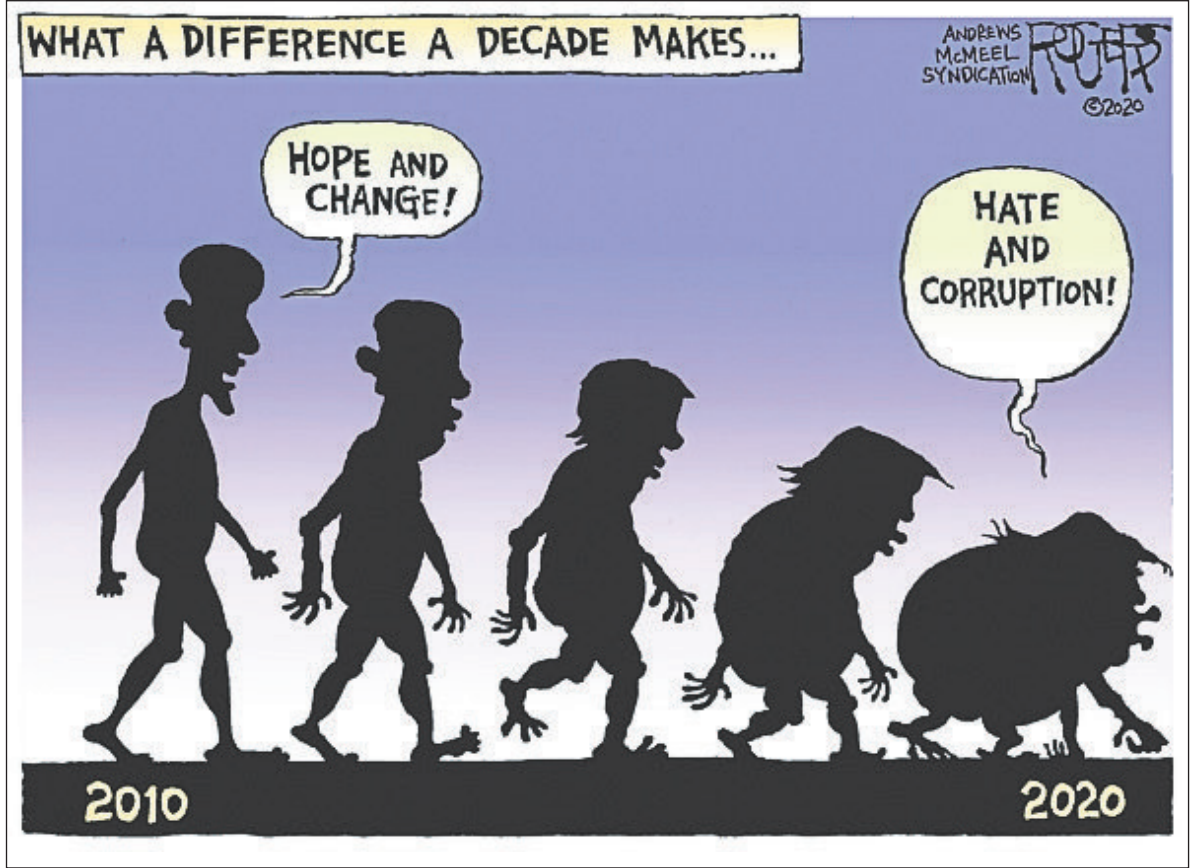
Newspapers don't receive government subsidies, but they do charge the government and other entities for publishing notices deemed to be important for the community. We would be failing our readers to not mention that newspapers receive payment for legal notices, but space used to publish notices (required by law) cuts into a newspaper's ability to run advertisements or content that keeps them operating.

Removing public notices from newspapers is like asking a fox to guard a chicken roost. The fact that Indiana lawmakers are shirking their party platforms and principles – like cutting red tape, limiting government control and keeping the government transparent – begs us to question their motives.

Politicians would love to see newspapers report less about the business they conduct day in and day out, so why would we allow them to control – or hide – the publishing of legally-required notices that bring them under greater scrutiny?

We must urge our state representatives to keep public notices in newspapers.

Transparency, accountability and the health of our communities are at stake.



Democrats are pushing diversity off the stage

Let me get this straight: Kamala Harris and Julián Castro are out of the presidential race, while Pete Buttigieg and Tom Steyer are still in? And there may not be a single person of color on stage at the last debate before actual voting begins with the Iowa caucuses? And this is the Democratic Party we're talking about?

Harris, who ended her campaign last month, is the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate from California, a state more populous than most nations, including Canada and Australia. Castro, who dropped out of the race Thursday, is a former secretary of housing and urban development and perhaps the best-known Latino politician in the country.

Buttigieg, by contrast, is the now-former mayor of the fourth-largest city in Indiana. And Steyer is a hedge-fund billionaire who has never held elective office. The fact that both happen to be white men is, well, a simple fact.

Campaigns generally end because they run out of money. Candidates fail to garner support and donations for a variety of reasons. But I seem to recall that last summer, when the debates began, Democratic Party pooh-bahs congratulated themselves on how the rainbow array of candidates reflected the racial and ethnic diversity of the party's base. The debate scheduled for Jan. 14 in Des Moines, however, promises to be an all-white affair.

So far, the only candidates to qualify under the party's arcane rules are former Vice President Joe

Biden; Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; and Buttigieg.

Active candidates who do not yet meet the standard – at least 225,000 unique donors; plus support of 5 percent or more in four party-approved national or early-state polls, or 7 percent or more in two party-approved early-state polls – include Cory Booker, the first African American senator from New Jersey, and businessman Andrew Yang, who is Asian American.

Steyer is almost certain to miss the debate, too, as is former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, another white man. But the shrinking field's two billionaires have the resources to stay in the race as long as they want, blanketing the airwaves with campaign ads. Whether all that spending will translate into votes remains to be seen.

The Democratic Party should nominate the best possible candidate, regardless of race, and electing any of the above would be far, far better for the nation and the world than enduring four more years of President Trump's incompetence and corruption. But with polls showing many Democrats are still shopping, the debate rules threaten not to aid the decision-making process but to distort it.

You will recall that the race began with well over 20 candidates, forcing the party to hold two-night debates. The rules were designed to winnow the field, and they did the job – perhaps all too well. Diversity is among the collateral damage.

Look at the situation Castro was facing. He lagged in the polls and was running low on funds. Realistically, his only chance would have

been to make an unexpectedly good showing in the Iowa caucuses – something that has revived near-dead campaigns in the past. But without being on stage in Des Moines for the last debate before caucus night, and lacking the money for some kind of big media blitz, he had no real chance of pulling off an Iowa surprise. So he's out.

Look at Booker, who performed well in his last two debates and saw his fundraising pick up. Look at Yang, who has done surprisingly well thus far but likely won't clear the Jan. 14 debate threshold. They, too, need to outperform expectations in the caucuses to remain viable as candidates. They, too, will suffer greatly from not being on that stage.

How many candidates ideally should be at the Des Moines debate? Certainly fewer than the 14 who are still actively running. But more than five.

Biden, Sanders, Warren, Buttigieg and Klobuchar have worked hard to get where they are. But Biden is a relatively weak front-runner, at this point, and nobody else registers even 20 percent in the Real Clear Politics average of national polls. If ever there was the opportunity for someone back in the pack to vault to prominence with an out-of-nowhere performance in Iowa, this would seem to be the year.

Order had to be imposed on an unruly race, but the party's debate rules have done so prematurely. As a result, the Democrats' greatest electoral strength – diversity – likely will not be on display. "Whites only" is not a look the party should want.

Eugene Robinson's email address is eugene.robinson@washpost.com.

What's ahead for us in 2020?

Another year gone, another reset of the calendar, which means it is time to take stock of where we've been and where we're going.

The usual changeover rituals are too limited in one way or another. "Top 10" lists usually consider only the best or worst of the 12 months just gone by. New-year's-resolution exercises consider only the personal failings we hope to correct in the coming 12 months. We need to occasionally step back and take a longer and more expansive view.

So, here are two different takes on where the world might be headed. Take your pick.

The pessimistic view:

"2019 may well go down as the most disrupted year in global politics since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the subsequent implosion of the former Soviet Union.

"However, the likelihood is that 2020 will be worse, and bloodier.

"Conditions that spawned global unrest on every continent in 2019 are unlikely to recede. Rather, they are likely to worsen in the face of a slowing global economy and little sign of causes of disaffection being addressed.

"In a word, the world is in a mess, made more threatening by the retreat of the Trump administration from America's traditional role as a stabilizing force."

– theconversation.com

The optimistic view:

"In the long arc of human history, 2019 has been the best year ever.

"The bad things that you fret about are true. But it's also true that since modern humans emerged about 200,000 years ago, 2019 was probably the year in which children were least likely to die, adults were least likely to be illiterate and people were least likely to suffer excruciating and disfiguring diseases. Every single day in recent years, another 325,000 people got their first access to electricity.

"Each day, more than 200,000 got piped water for the first time. And some 650,000 went online for the first time, every single day. Perhaps the greatest calamity for anyone is to lose a child. That used to be common: Historically, almost half of all humans died in childhood. As recently as 1950, 27 percent of all children still died by age 15. Now that figure has dropped to about 4 percent."

– Nicolas Kristof, The New York Times

If you choose to dwell on the negative view, the article gives you plenty of material to obsess about: trade conflicts, technology wars, fears of globalization, income inequality, the pervasive corruption of tyrannical governments, violent protests, the growth of megacities and resultant urban ills like poverty, gang conflict and drug trafficking. The list of horrors would not be complete without "unrest over climate change" and the perception that government is "indifferent to climate concerns."

If you want to focus on the positive, Kristof asks you to forget your gloom for a nanosecond and "to note what historians may eventually see as the most important trend in the world in the early 21st century: our progress toward elimination of hideous diseases, illiteracy and the most extreme poverty."

The two views are not mutually exclusive, of course. You can acknowledge all the bad things in the world but still understand that things are getting much better overall. And it is possible to overemphasize one view or the other.

If we are too optimistic, we risk the sin of indifference, overlooking obvious problems that need immediate attention. If we are too pessimistic, we don't recognize solutions that will provide even more good results if we keep applying them.

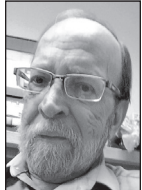
But our default – the baseline premise from which we choose to operate – matters.

We like to think we are neutral, looking at every situation with detachment until all the evidence is in. But mostly we're not. We start either from the assumption that the best will happen unless the evidence shows us otherwise or the assumption that the facts must prove to us that we're not in for the worst.

What you see depends on where you stand. No one can decide that for you.

Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at leoedits@yahoo.com.

Leo Morris





American Legion Auxiliary offers scholarships

STAFF REPORT
(Editor's note: This story is being re-run to clarify the requirements for the various categories.)
The American Legion Auxiliary offers many scholarships for students looking for an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, according to a press release.
Amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000.
These scholarships include specific for a child or grandchild of any war-era veteran; non-veteran; a Junior Auxiliary member; and a non-traditional student. For this final category, only these scholarships require a copy of the applicant's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or Student Aid Report (SAR). The rest of the ones listed before it do not require this documentation.
Many applications are due March 1. Applications are available at the Manchester High School office of Lacey Wise, school counselor.
Students from other Wabash County schools may contact Roxy Stoner, of Wabash Auxiliary Unit No. 15, by phone at 260-615-4015.

Local students named to USI Dean's List

STAFF REPORT
In recognition of "outstanding academic achievement," the Dean's List has been released for the fall 2018 semester at the University of Southern Indiana (USI), according to a press release.
Dr. Mohammed Khayum, USI provost, reported that 2,304 undergraduates were named to the Dean's List.
Local students who were named to the Dean's List include:
■ Kaitlyn M. Hembree, of Lagro.
■ Paige R. Holley, of Roann.
■ Mariah T. Paris, of Wabash.
Semester honors are not awarded to master's degree students or doctoral students.
Undergraduate students must achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average (on a 4.0 system) to be named to the Dean's List. Students earning no IN (incomplete) or Z (missing) grades for the term, and earning letter grades of computable point value (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory and Pass/No Pass graded courses do not apply) in 12 or more semester hours, with a semester grade point average between 3.5 and 4.0 are named to the list.

Governor Holcomb changes stance on teacher pay action

BY TOM DAVIES
Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor opened the door Monday to potentially boosting school funding and teacher pay after weeks of refuting any plans on such action until next year.
Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb didn't give any details of what he would propose during his annual State of the State speech next week, while a top legislative Democrat promised his party would push for more school funding in the wake of a November rally that drew several thousand teachers to the Statehouse.
Holcomb and GOP legislative leaders have since repeatedly defended the 2.5 percent per-year increase included in the two-year state budget approved last spring and maintained that further steps regarding the state's lagging teacher pay would need to wait until the next state budget it written in 2021.
Holcomb has said he would wait for recommendations later this year from a teacher pay commission he appointed in February, but told reporters Monday that might change with state tax revenues growing faster than expected.
"Stay tuned, you'll hear more from me at the State of the State address," Holcomb said.
The top House Republican,

"Republicans tout the amount in their budget for education but avoid the uncomfortable and tragic truth. ... The budget shortchanges traditional public schools, while diverting millions of dollars to failed for profit and out of state charter and virtual charter schools along with private voucher programs. "

— Indiana House Democratic leader Phil GiaQuinta

Speaker Brian Bosma, downplayed the possible impact of Holcomb's proposal following the governor's remarks on the day the GOP-dominated Legislature began its 2020 session that will conclude in early March. Holcomb's State of the State is set for Jan. 14.
Teacher union leaders and Democratic legislators maintain the state has money to give more to schools now — pointing to about \$300 million in unexpected tax revenue that the state collected last budget year and nearly \$250 million, or 4 percent, that's come in beyond projections since July 1.
House Democratic leader Phil GiaQuinta of Fort Wayne said Monday that Republican-backed "policies are responsible for creating a crisis in public education."
That includes average Indiana teacher salaries dropping 15 percent since 2000 when adjusted for inflation and about a third of new Indiana teachers leaving their jobs within five years, according to state officials and education advocacy groups.
"Republicans tout the amount in their budget for education but avoid the uncomfortable and tragic truth," GiaQuinta said. "The budget shortchanges traditional public schools, while diverting millions of dollars to failed for profit and out of state charter and virtual charter schools along with private voucher programs."
Holcomb wants legislators to direct nearly \$300 million of the state's additional revenue toward paying cash rather than borrowing money for several planned construction projects, such as a new veterinary hospital at Purdue University and building plans at Ball State University, the University of Southern Indiana and Ivy Tech State College in Columbus.
House Republicans are sup-

porting the governor's request, although they are substituting \$62 million for Indiana University building projects rather than Holcomb's plan of directing \$50 million toward replacing a nearly century-old structure at the Indiana State Fairgrounds — a project panned by Democrats as showing greater priority for a swine barn than teacher pay or other neglected needs.
Bosma said the project spending plan would save the state an estimated \$137 million in future interest payments and would be a better use of tax revenue the state's not sure it will continue collecting long term.
Bosma said he spoke with Holcomb about his teacher pay proposal Monday but declined to explain it.
"I don't think it is going to impact our proposal on how to use the surplus at this point," Bosma said. "I think it is talking about the future."

Panel rejects proposed \$291M teacher pay hike

BY TOM DAVIES
Associated Press
An Indiana House committee rejected on Tuesday a Democratic proposal to direct \$291 million in unexpected state tax revenue toward one-time teacher pay bonuses.
The Republican-controlled House Ways and Means Com-

mittee voted 13-7 along party lines against the proposal, going along with arguments from GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb's budget director that it wouldn't be the best use of the money.
Committee Republicans endorsed a bill directing the \$291 million on paying cash rather than borrowing money for sev-

eral planned college campus construction projects that were allowed under the state budget approved in April.
State Budget Director Zach Jackson told the committee the state could save about \$135 million in interest payments, making that money available for future state

spending.
Democratic Rep. Ed DeLaney of Indianapolis said he believed that with current low interest rates the available tax money would be better spent on addressing the state's lagging teacher pay.
The bill now goes to the full House for consideration.

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Democratic state senator ends campaign for governor

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A northwestern Indiana state senator has ended his campaign for governor, leaving two people seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb in this year’s election.

Sen. Eddie Melton of Gary released a statement Monday night citing the work needed to raise the money needed for the statewide campaign in de-

ciding to drop his bid for governor and instead seek reelection to the state Senate seat he first won in 2016.

Melton highlighted education issues and formed a partnership with Republican state schools Superintendent Jennifer McCormick, who introduced Melton at his October campaign announcement and joined him at several public meetings over the summer as he considered entering the

race.

“Unfortunately politics today require way too much of a candidate’s time being spent on the phone chasing dollars,” Melton said. “Fixing our systems of elections will take the work of all of us.”

Woody Myers, a health care business executive and former state health commissioner, and tech business executive Josh Owens remain in the race for the Democratic nomi-

nation. No gubernatorial candidates have yet announced fundraising totals through the end of 2019, but none of the Democrats have filed required state forms for large outside contributions showing they will be anywhere close to Holcomb’s campaign bank account when finance reports are due Jan. 15.

Holcomb has a big front-runner advantage while he seeks re-election and has like-

ly added much to the \$6 million that was in his campaign account at the end of June as he’s leveraged leading a GOP-dominated state without any high-profile Democratic challengers.

Melton apparently struggled to raise money despite the support of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and the state’s branch of the American Federation of Teachers.

McCormick’s participation

with Melton laid bare her split from Holcomb and GOP legislative leaders since she was elected to be state schools superintendent in 2016 with Republican Party support. She has disagreed with Republican legislators on issues including the use of standardized testing to rate schools and teachers, and her support for increased scrutiny of charter and voucher schools that receive state money.

Trump retreats from threat to attack Iranian cultural sites

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday backed away from his threats to target Iranian cultural sites if Iran retaliates against the U.S. for killing one of its top generals.

Targeting cultural sites is a war crime.

After first tweeting the threat and later reiterating it to reporters as he flew back to Washington over the weekend, Trump retreated Tuesday, saying, “I like to obey the law.”

But he still sounded offended by the idea that such sites would be off limits during armed conflict.

“Think of it,” Trump said during an Oval Office appearance. “They kill our people. They blow up our people. And then we have to be very gentle with their cultural institutions?”

Trump added: “But I’m OK with it. It’s OK with me.” He then issued yet another stern warning to Iran to stand down, saying, “If Iran does anything they shouldn’t be doing, they are going to be suffering the consequences, and very strongly.”

On Monday, Defense Secretary Mike Esper had distanced the Pentagon from Trump’s threats to bomb Iranian cultural sites despite international prohibitions on

“Think of it. They kill our people. They blow up our people. And then we have to be very gentle with their cultural institutions? ...

But I’m OK with it. It’s OK with me.”

— President Donald Trump

such activity.

Esper said the U.S. will “follow the laws of armed conflict.” Asked if that ruled out targeting cultural sites, Esper pointedly added, “That’s the laws of armed conflict.”

It all began over the weekend when Trump tweeted Saturday that if Iran attacked any American assets to avenge the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the U.S. had 52 targets across the Islamic Republic that “WILL BE HIT VERY FAST AND VERY HARD.”

He added that some are “important to Iran & Iranian culture.”

Anger spread quickly across Iran, and Trump repeated the threat to reporters traveling with him as he flew back to Washington on Sunday after spending two weeks at his Florida resort.

Tensions between the U.S. and Iran escalated sharply after Trump ordered a drone strike in Iraq that killed Soleimani, head of Iran’s powerful Quds Force. The

U.S. has said Soleimani was killed because he was making plans to attack American diplomats and service members in the Middle East.

Targeting cultural sites is a war crime under the 1954 Hague Convention for their protection. Separately, in 2017, the U.N. Security Council unanimously passed a resolution condemning the destruction of heritage sites. Attacks by the Islamic State group and other armed factions in Syria and Iraq prompted that vote.

UNESCO, the United Nations’ cultural agency, has called on governments to remember that cultural sites are not targets.

Trump’s tweet also caused concern in Washington. One U.S. national security official said the threat against Iranian cultural sites had caught many in his administration off-guard and prompted calls for others in his government, including Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo, to clarify the matter. The official, who was not authorized to speak publicly to the issue, called such a clarification necessary to affirm that the U.S. military would not intentionally commit war crimes.

When asked about the president’s tweet, Pompeo said Sunday that the U.S. will “behave” within the law. Questioned about the matter again Tuesday, Pompeo said every action taken by the U.S. “will be consistent with the international rule of law,” though he did not specifically rule out Iranian cultural sites.

He then blamed Iran for damaging its culture.

Iran is home to two dozen UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Persepolis, with its ancient ruins that date to 518 B.C.; the 17th century grand mosque of Isfahan, located in a teeming bazaar; and the Golestan Palace in the heart of Tehran, where the last shah to rule Iran, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was crowned in 1967.

Man dies in trench collapse during well construction

BARGERSVILLE (AP) — A central Indiana man who was working with his son to install a well died Monday after a trench collapsed, trapping him 15 feet below ground, police said.

Crews worked for more than 10 hours before they recovered the body of Douglas Scott Abney, 56, at the work site in Bargersville.

When the Bargersville Fire Department arrived at the scene, workers told them that a man was trapped about 15 feet below ground in the trench collapse just south of Indianapolis.

Fire Chief Eric Funkhouser said Abney and his son were working in a trench for a well that was under construction when it began to collapse Monday. The Bargersville man was trapped while trying to escape and Funkhouser said the son and another person couldn’t rescue Abney because the trench was collapsing too quickly.

The Johnson County Sheriff’s Office said rescue teams were not able to see the victim and decided that entering the trench was too dangerous. The crew’s mission then shifted from a rescue to a recovery.

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Nationals sign INF Starlin Castro for \$12 million, 2 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Infielder Starlin Castro finalized a two-year contract with the Washington Nationals on Tuesday, one of a flurry of recent moves by the World Series champions.

Castro's deal gives the club someone who can start at second base and maybe also play some at third, where Anthony Rendon left as a free agent.

Last season with the Miami Marlins, Castro batted .270 with career highs of 22 homers and 86 RBIs. He appeared in all 162 games, making 115 starts at second and 42 at third, along with two at shortstop.

Castro will turn 30 in March and is entering his 11th season in the majors. In addition to the Marlins, he has played for the Chicago Cubs and New York Yankees and been an All-Star four times.

For his career, Castro has hit .280, with a .319 on-base percentage, .414 slugging percentage, 133 homers and 636 RBIs.

Browns last NFL team looking for coach; interviews scheduled

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Browns are the only team looking for a coach. That should make finding one a little easier.

With the Carolina Panthers and New York Giants completing coaching hires on Tuesday, Cleveland's job vacancy will be the last NFL opening filled. It's still unclear how quickly that will happen.

The Browns, who fired Freddie Kitchens after just one season, are in the second week of interviews and have scheduled meetings this week with Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Vikings coordinator Kevin Stefanski. Cleveland has also asked the Philadelphia Eagles permission to interview defensive coordinator Jim Schwartz, who like McDaniels, has head coaching experience. Stefanski was a finalist for Cleveland' job a year ago. He has a busy week with the Vikings playing San Francisco on Saturday in the second round of the playoffs.

Submit your news

The Plain Dealer is accepting all news, varsity, junior varsity, middle school, elementary school and non-school affiliated recreational sports. To get a brief in the newspaper, please provide final score and any highlights pertaining to the event, including first and last names of participants. Reports must be received by 3:00 p.m. to make it in the following day's edition. Items may be:

E-mailed to sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Called into 260-225-4523 after 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please do not leave complete results on voice mail.

Mailed into Plain Dealer, 123 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Organizations or individuals e-mailing materials should call the sports department to ensure the information was received. The Plain Dealer reserves the right to edit material for length, clarity and/or style, and does not guarantee publication.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Vikings, Norse to meet in vital TRC clash

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com

After a long holiday break, Wabash County teams return to the hardwood this week by jumping headfirst back into conference and intra-county action.

Girls basketball
Northfield (10-4) at Tippecanoe Valley, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

As the Norse have righted the ship following a slow start to the season, their biggest task yet awaits them. Winners of eight of its last nine games, Northfield travels to Tippecanoe Valley on Thursday with the Three Rivers Conference (TRC) likely on the line.

Northfield's loss to Wabash earlier this season leaves little wiggle room left if the Norse hopes to defend their conference crown for a third year running. The Vikings are unbeaten on the year in TRC play with wins over Maconaquah, Wabash, North Miami and Whitko.

Sydney Wagner leads Tippecanoe Valley in scoring this year at 17.9 points per game after averaging just 7.4 points per game as a starter last season. Jillian Walls and Kaydence Mellot average 10.5 points per contest each this year as well.

Last season, Northfield earned a narrow 56-52 win at home, a victory that eventually led to them earning a share of the TRC title with



JUMPER: Northfield's Kearston Stout shoots a jumper during the final of the Wabash County Tournament earlier this season.

See TRC / Page B3

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Spegal leads run of state title players on high school football all-state teams

BY MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Charlie Spegal spent four years breaking records and compiling honors.

Now the senior running back who led New Palestine to two straight undefeated seasons can add another award to his growing list: A second straight appearance on the The Associated Press Class 5A all-state team.

Spegal might have been the easiest selection of the six classes, selected by a panel of Indiana sports writers and broadcasters with input from the Indiana Football Coaches Association.

The 5-foot-11, 225-pound Spegal shattered state records for career yards

(10,867) and career touchdown runs (173), becoming the first player in state history to produce two 3,000-yard seasons. Sammy Mireles of Elwood held the state's previous rushing record with 8,110 yards.

He led New Palestine to 28 consecutive wins and back-to-back state titles after leaving Delta following his sophomore season and set a national record in 2018 by running for 68 TDs.

As a result, Spegal was the runaway winner in the IndyStar Mr. Football Award balloting last month, was named the state's Gatorade player of the year and added another all-state selection to a resume that already included Class 4A honorable

mention selections in 2016 and 2017 while playing for Delta.

Spegal didn't do all that by himself, of course. Two teammates, defensive lineman Kyle King and defensive back Maxen Hook, also made the Class 5A list.

And the state championship teams were again well-represented.

Western Boone quarterback Spencer Wright, the Mr. Football runner-up, and three of his teammates — receiver Connor Hole, offensive lineman Casey Foster and linebacker Brett Wethington — all were chosen.

Three seniors from state champion Carmel, including promising linebacker Ty

Wise, were selected in Class 6A. Wise finished a distant third in the Mr. Football voting.

Evansville Memorial and East Noble, the two state finalists in Class 4A, each had two players selected. Evansville Memorial won its first 4A title 21-3 on Nov. 30.

The trend was even more pronounced in the smaller classes.

Running back Daylen Taylor led a group of five players from undefeated state champion Indianapolis Chatard on the Class 3A team while state finalists Lafayette Central Catholic and Indianapolis Lutheran combined to take eight of the 25

See SPEGAL / Page B3

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Delay of game: National title for college football on hold amidst 2-week wait

BY PETE IACOBELLI
AP Sports Writer

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence was ready to get right back on the field to play for another College Football Playoff title after the Tigers' hard-fought semifinal win over Ohio State last month.

That changed once he woke up the next day.

"I was really sore so I was glad to get some extra time," he said.

But there have been questions whether the longest break in the CFP's six seasons has been good for the

sport, especially in the shadows of the NFL playoffs.

It will be 16 days since top-ranked LSU (14-0; No. 1 CFP) and No. 3 Clemson (14-0; No. 3 CFP) last played by the time the teams meet in New Orleans on Jan. 13.

But like Lawrence, it seems most everyone from the coaches and players to Superdome officials and fans seem to have rolled with the break as they wait for the showdown — of course, they didn't have much of a choice.

It apparently didn't hurt ticket sales.

CFP executive director Bill Hancock said the game is a sellout — just like the first five CFP championships And even with the ongoing NFL playoffs, Hancock believes the buildup and excitement for the college title is as strong as ever despite the lengthy layoff.

Hancock said the proximity of LSU's campus (about 80 miles northwest of New Orleans in Baton Rouge) guarantees an intensity and excitement for the event.

"I think this buzz is because of the popularity of college football, plus the match up of two great

teams," Hancock said in a text to The Associated Press.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney has been in four of the last five CFP championships, winning in 2016 after a nine-day break and last season when the Tigers again had nine days to get back to campus after the Cotton Bowl in Dallas before flying cross-country to California.

The quick turn didn't seem to bother Clemson during its 44-16 title game victory over Alabama.

"You know, I'd prefer to

See CFP / Page B3

NFL

NFL adds 6 grassroots groups to Inspire Change Initiative

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK The NFL is awarding new grants to six social justice organizations as part of its "Inspire Change" initiative that emphasizes education and economic development, community and police relations, and criminal justice reform.

The new grants, along with two grant renewals, were recently approved by the joint NFL players-owners working group and total nearly \$3 million.

Since its launch a year ago, the league's social justice platform has awarded more than \$25 million in grants for grassroots organizations, including more than 500 grants to current and former players for nonprofits across the country.

It's part of a more than \$90 million commitment the league has made to reducing barriers to social justice.

In addition to grant renewals for Dream Corps and the United Negro College Fund, which received grants during the initiative's launch last year, the six new organizations brings to 18 the number of social justice groups to receive the NFL grants.

The new ones are:

■ Alabama Appleseed, which will use the funding for a campaign that emphasizes treatment alternatives to incarceration.

■ City Year, which will use the funding to augment its student support program, which unites 3,000 young adults of all backgrounds to serve in schools as student success coaches.

■ Community Justice Exchange, which will use the funding for its National Bail Fund Network project.

■ The Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, which will use the funding in part to support its Non-violence365 campaign, which focuses on decreasing the prison population, reducing prison sentences, altering drug sentencing policy and juvenile justice reform.

■ Metropolitan Family Services, which will use the funding for its program that provides incentives for participants to make nonviolent choices.

■ And The National Urban League, which will use the funding to support its Urban Apprenticeship Jobs Program, Urban Youth Empowerment Program and Re-Entry Jobs Program.

The league also produced new TV spots as part of its Inspire Change initiative.

The first one premiered on Jan. 4 featuring Saints linebacker Demario Davis and his efforts to help restore voting rights in Louisiana. The second spot will air on Jan. 11 and features 49ers defensive end Arik Armstead and the impact he's made on educational equality with Leataata Floyd Elementary School in his hometown of Sacramento, California.

The final spot focuses on Players Coalition co-founder Anquan Boldin and his inspiration to launch social justice work across the country. The signature spot of the Inspire Change platform will debut during the conference championship games Jan. 19 and run through the Super Bowl.

See NFL / Page B3

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Indiana High School Boys Basketball Top 10 Teams				
The Associated Press Top 10 Indiana high school boys basketball teams, with first-place votes in parentheses, records, rating points and previous rankings:				
Class 4A				
1. Lawrence North (13)	W-L 8-0	Pts 296	1	
2. Bloomington South (2)	12-0	266	2	
3. Lawrence Central	8-1	228	3	
4. Fishers	12-0	200	4	
5. Warren Central	8-0	173	5	
6. Lafayette Jeff	9-1	143	6	
7. Greensburg	8-1	122	7	
8. Floyd Central	7-1	109	8	
9. Westfield	7-0	101	9	
10. Columbus North	9-2	31	NR	
Others receiving votes:				
S. Bend Adams 26, Indianapolis Attucks 25, Carroll (Allen) 25, Indpls Pike 13, Warsaw 9, Chesterton 8, Gary West 7, Indpls Cathedral 6, Jeffersonville 6, Ev. Reitz 6.				
Class 3A				
1. Silver Creek (14)	W-L 10-1	Pts 298	1	
2. Danville	9-1	252	2	
3. Heritage Hills	6-3	202	4	
4. S. Bend St. Joseph's (1)	7-1	192	5	
5. Delta	7-1	162	6	
6. Norwell	9-1	145	3	
7. Greensburg	8-2	107	8	
8. Connersville	8-2	92	7	
9. Indpls Brebeuf	6-2	84	9	
10. Indian Creek	8-1	56	NR	
(tie) Mishawaka Marian	4-2	56	NR	
Others receiving votes:				
Washington 46, Beech Grove 33, Jintown 19, Hammond 18, NorthWood 13, Sullivan 12, Mississinewa 7, Northview 6.				
Class 2A				
1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (15)	W-L 8-1	Pts 300	1	
2. Shenandoah	9-0	251	2	
3. Prairie Hts.	10-0	214	4	
4. Linton-Stockton	9-2	186	6	
5. Ev. Mator Dei	7-1	185	6	
6. Decatur	10-0	183	5	
7. Tipton	10-1	147	7	
8. Blackford	7-2	95	9	
9. Forest Park	9-1	87	NR	
10. Paoli	8-2	59	8	
Others receiving votes:				
S. Spencer 28, Wapahani 19, University 14, Indpls Howe 10, Apak 9, Westview 6.				
Class 1A				
1. Barr-Reeve (14)	W-L 11-0	Pts 298	1	
2. Greenwood Christian	9-0	251	2	
3. Gary 21st Century (1)	8-2	240	3	
4. Kouts	8-1	186	4	
5. Covington	7-2	175	6	
6. Bloomfield	6-1	159	5	
7. Lafayette Catholic	5-2	133	8	
8. Logansport	9-3	104	9	
9. Providence Cristo Rey	8-2	67	7	
10. Christian Academy	6-5	53	10	
Others receiving votes:				
Dubois 33, N. Daviess 28, Argos 14, Morristown 13, Orleans 12, Blue River 8, New Washington 7, W. Washington 7, Tindley 6, Washington Twp. 6.				

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

2019 Indiana High School Football All-State Team				
CLASS A OFFENSE				
QB — Logan White, 6-2, 225, Sr., Parke Heritage				
RB — Marcus McFadden, 6-1, 215, Sr., Indianapolis Lutheran				
RB — Kye Johnson, 6-1, 175, Sr., Traders Point Christian				
WR — Harrison Sanford, 6-3, 175, Sr., West Washington				
WR — Noble Johnson, 6-2, 170, So., Parke Heritage				
TE — Jacob Strange, 6-5, 220, Jr., West Washington				
OL — Peyton Knight, 6-2, 230, Sr., Indianapolis Lutheran				
OL — Pete Spencer, 6-2, 260, Sr., Lafayette Central Catholic				
OL — Sam Thomas, 6-4, 295, Jr., Knightstown				
OL — Logan Swallow, 6-0, 290, Sr., Monroe Central				
OL — Hayden Filipovich, 5-11, 190, Jr., Indianapolis Lutheran				
P — Joaquin Gallo, 6-0, 223, Sr., Lafayette Central Catholic				
ALL-PURPOSE — Daniel Roach, 5-8, 175, Sr., Lafayette Central Catholic				

DEFENSE				
DL — Joseph Collier, 6-3, 200, Jr., Adams Central				
DL — Nick Miller, 6-4, 215, Jr., South Adams DL — Dillon Filip, 6-2, 255, Sr., Southwood DL — Chandler Reatherford, 5-9, 237, Jr., Milan				
LB — Evan Munn, 5-11, 180, Sr., Lafayette Central Catholic				
LB — Jack Hargan, 6-3, 200, Sr., Attica				
LB — Wyatt Reynolds, 5-9, 180, Sr., North Vermillion				

HONORABLE MENTION				
QB — James Arnold, South Adams; Anthony Ball, North White; Clark Barrett, Lafayette Central Catholic; Eli Kirkpatrick, Attica; Kade Osborn, Clinton Prairie; Blake White, Indianapolis Lutheran; Tristan Working, North Miami.				
RB — Caleb Atkinson, Frontier; Ayden Ayres, Carroll (Flora); Zach Ditmore, Culver; Caleb Ellmore, Covington; Jake Fulk, Churubusco; Darrian Hanley, North Miami; Jayden Hinsley, Union City; Cameron Howe, Sheridan; Jalen King, Culver; Nick Walsh, Knightstown.				
WR — Reece Buche, Lafayette Central Catholic; Brayden Buschman, North White; Jacob Fullerton, Clinton Prairie; Logan Kehne, North Decatur; Austin Petrillo, Parke Heritage; Hayden Switzer, South Putnam; Peyton Wert, Milan.				
OL — Garrett Gates, Perry Central; Hunter Lautt, Culver; Josh Little, North Vermillion; Cody Theobald, North Decatur; Dennis Trospier, Tri; Reese Wicker, Churubusco.				
TE — Trey Cobb, North White.				
DL — Hunter Bianski, Churubusco; Joseph Collier, Adams Central; Parker Hacker, South Putnam; Micah Higgins, Northfield; Jadon Locke, Hagerstown; Dylan Marin, North Judson; Sean Patrick, Clinton Prairie; Chris Starks, Sheridan; Evan Suppinger, Lafayette Central Catholic.				
LB — Blake Heyerly, Adams Central; Seth Forsyth, Northfield; Treven Girard, Frontier; Luke Marley, Carroll (Flora); Dakota Sams, Milan; Nolan Shidler, North Judson; Grady Spunger, South Adams; Austin Streteval, Edinburgh; Dennis Trospier, Tri; Coltyn Vandegriff, Clinton Prairie.				
DB — Holden Bowsman, West Washington; Colton Brown, Covington; Chase Farmer, West Washington; Joshua Krusenklau, North Daviess; Ahmir Lloyd, Parkus; Khal Stephen, Seeger; Elijah Sutton, Southwood.				
P — Sam Feola, Monroe Central.				

CLASS 2A OFFENSE				
QB — Spencer Wright, 6-1, 175, Sr., Western Boone				
RB — Tyishaun Woods, 5-8, 185, Sr., Indianapolis Scecina				
RB — Colin Wagner, 6-1, 195, Sr., North Newton				
WR — Cade Vernetti, 5-11, 170, Sr., Alexandria				
WR — Connor Hole, 6-0, 175, Sr., Western Boone				
TE — Luke Hornung, 6-2, 225, Sr., Triton Central				
OL — Zane Anderson, 6-4, 265, Sr., Paoli				
OL — Casey Foster, 6-0, 280, Sr., Western Boone				
OL — P.J. Maximus Amble, 6-4, 285, Sr., Seeger				
OL — Adam Warren, 6-2, 270, Sr., Andrean				
OL — Cobee Rice, 6-4, 300, Sr., Eastbrook				
K — J.J. Wadas, 5-9, 170, Sr., Andrean				
ALL-PURPOSE — David Baker, 6-3, 210, Sr., Indianapolis Scecina				

DEFENSE				
DL — Kain Thornton, 6-2, 185, Sr., Bluffton				
DL — Eli Phillips, 5-10, 190, Sr., Indianapolis Scecina				
DL — Chandler Murray, 6-1, 225, Sr., Boone Grove				
DL — Alex Baker, 6-5, 190, Sr., Eastbrook				
LB — Ethan Lowry, 6-3, 225, Sr., Heritage Christian				
LB — Brett Wethington, 6-0, 210, Sr., Western Boone				
LB — Joey Humphrey, 6-1, 205, Sr., Lewis Cass				
LB — Jackson Alistock, 6-0, 180, Sr.,				

Eastbrook
DB — B.J. Barnes, 5-10, 140, Sr., Rochester
DB — Cole Campbell, 6-1, 185, Sr., Winchester
DB — Jake Mayersky, 6-1, 180, Sr., Boone Grove
P — Drew Day, 5-8, 205, Sr., Forest Park

HONORABLE MENTION

QB — Cole Alexander, Lapel; Maverick Summers, North Putnam; Max Milton, Heritage Christian; Rylan Metz, Alexandria; Houston Swan, Eastern Hancock; Isaac Chambers, Lewis Cass.
RB — Gabe Eurit, Lewis Cass; Noah Bierma, Rensselaer Central; John McGrew, Evansville Mater Dei; Ryan Walsh, Andrean; Addai Lewellen, Pioneer; Colton Brown, Heritage Christian; Braeton Vann, Boone Grove; Antonio Nieves, South Vermillion; Zane Downing, Eastern (Greentown); Colin Flake, Providence.
WR — A.J. Sanders, Cascade; Tanner Mroz, Lapel; Drew Pearce, Tipton; Charlie Prough, Lapel; Bryant Boggs, Wabash; Kalib Lawrence, North Putnam; Harrison Eckel, Heritage Christian.
TE — Trevor Wallace, Woodlan; Alex Money, Evansville Mater Dei; Eli Royal, South Vermillion.
OL — Trevor Kahre, North Knox; Owen Davison, Rensselaer Central; Kyle Davidson, Evansville Mater Dei; Jaxon Miller, Triton Central; Jackson Pruitt, Indianapolis Scecina; Max Korniak, Rensselaer Central; Dylan Mathena, Tell City; Dylan Sanders, Winchester; A.J. Wiles, Eastern (Greentown).
K — Mike Holder, Boone Grove.
DL — Sam Huffman, Bremen; Josh Berger, Northeastern; Emmanuel Jasper, Speedway; Vedder Rogers, Linton-Stockton; Zach Thompson, Centerville; James Ralph, Evansville Mater Dei.
LB — Nick Birkmeier, Fort Wayne Luers; Miles VonTobel, Pioneer; Luke Lannan, Linton-Stockton; Luke Marsh, Western Boone; Hayden Kermode, Triton Central; Jayvin Lyons, Tipton; Jason Hale, Eastbrook; Andrew Eriks, Boone Grove; Lane Cleckner, Eastside; Justin Hummel, Shenadoah.
DB — Aidan Baker, North Putnam; Isaac Justice, Blackford; Dakk Lannert, Evansville Mater Dei; Khal Stephen, Seeger; Lane Burns, Eastside; Ezra Lewellen, Pioneer; Isaiah Dalton, Eastbrook.
P — Leyton Czamekik, LaVilla.

CLASS 3A OFFENSE

QB — Kyle Adams, 6-0, 175, Sr., West Lafayette
RB — Daylen Taylor, 5-9, 188, Sr., Indianapolis Chatar
RB — Chandler Schubert, 5-9, 180, Sr., Danville
WR — Andrew Sowinski, 5-11, 178, Sr., Indianapolis Chatar
WR — Harrison Truitt, 6-5, 190, Sr., West Lafayette
TE — Timmy Gotsdil, 6-1, 190, Jr., Indianapolis Ritter
OL — Joseph Solomon, 6-4, 275, Sr., Indianapolis Chatar
OL — Jason Morton, 6-9, 310, Sr., Lawrenceburg
OL — Aaron Roberts, 6-4, 270, Jr., Indianapolis Ritter
OL — Mark Doyle, 6-4, 305, Sr., Heritage Hills
OL — Spencer Schneider, 6-5, 285, Sr., Guerin Catholic
K — Hunter Renner, 6-2, 200, Sr., Mishawaka Marian
ALL-PURPOSE — Carter Little, 6-0, 190, Jr., Maconaquah

DEFENSE

DL — Kenton Williams, 6-1, 220, Sr., Sullivan
DL — Miguel Ortiz, 5-11, 235, Sr., Mishawaka Marian
DL — Braxtin Pruitt, 6-2, 190, So., West Noble
LB — Jay Higgins, 6-2, 220, Sr., Indianapolis Brebeuf
LB — Brandon Pruitt, 6-3, 210, Sr., West Noble
LB — Wyatt Schrader, 5-10, 195, Sr., Indianapolis Chatar
LB — Yanni Karlaftis, 6-4, 213, Jr., West Lafayette
DB — Pat Mastrian, 6-0, 195, Sr., Indianapolis Chatar
DB — Cole Sigler, 6-1, 180, Sr., Heritage Hills
DB — Martin Napierkowski, 6-0, 175, Sr., Knox
DB — Marion Lukes, 5-10, 180, Sr., Charlestown
P — Derek Thompson, 6-2, 175, Sr., Brownstown Central

HONORABLE MENTION

QB — Brady Allen, Gibson Southern; Dane Andrews, West Vigo; Maddix Bogunia, Mishawaka Marian; Toby Brogan, Greensburg; Schuyler Curtis, Edgewood; Christian Gelov, Guerin Catholic; Reid Neal, Yorktown; Roman Purcell, Indian Creek; Eli Riley, Norwell; Rhett Snodgrass, Mt. Vernon (Posey); Garrett Yoon, Lawrenceburg.
RB — Gus Baumgartner, Guerin Catholic; Taron Bradshaw, South Bend Washington; Ethan Dveol, Jintown; Willie Lawrence, Indianapolis Washington; Daunte Majors, Peru; Aaron Nevil, North Harrison; Mitchell Spindler, Gibson Southern; Hunter Tschann, Franklin County.
WR — Breckan Austin, Mt. Vernon (Posey); Dakota Campbell, Greencastle; Tyler Grossman, Fort Wayne Concordia; Austin Knitt, Yorktown; Kian Hite, Oak Hill; Camron Knoll, Hamilton Heights; Jalen Vanderbosch, Fort Wayne Concordia; Jake Vance, Rushville; Kyle Vernelson, Sullivan.
OL — Ethan Burgess, West Vigo; Mario Garcia, South Bend Washington; Blake Garretson, Jintown; Clint Lorenz, Greensburg; Wade Melanson, Tippecanoe Valley; Luke Mosler, Franklin County; Jon Ort, Glenn; Aidan Sturgeon, West Lafayette; Braden Tucker, Gibson Southern; Glenn; Yvens Reischer, Jintown.
K — Caleb Krockover, West Lafayette.
DL — Cole Bergman, Garrett; Xavier Brown-Douglas, South Bend Washington; Justin Burnham, Heritage; Javonte Madison, Evansville Bosse; Mo Omoneo, West Lafayette; Ethan Parris, Lawrenceburg; Jace Potter, Tippecanoe Valley; Blake Ritzert, Mt. Vernon (Posey); Jalen Tiemeier, Brownstown Central.
LB — Tristan Bland, Edgewood; Bo Braunecker, Charlestown; Deke Brown, Charlestown; Cole Calvert, Southwood; Johnny Gonzalez, Tippecanoe Valley; Cooper Harris, Fort Wayne Concordia; Lucas Hines, Brownstown Central; Bodey Henry, Northwestern; DeShawn King, Hamilton Heights; Gail Lovins, Knox; Brent Ricketts, Mt. Vernon (Posey); Joel Rinkenberger, Norwell; Jacob Wetzel, Heritage Hills.
WR — Greg Atkinson, Mishawaka Marian; Grant Bell, Sullivan; Justin Browder, Ritter; Clay Campbell, Jintown; Jaden Conner, Tippecanoe Valley; Trevor Frisby, Mt. Vernon (Posey); Josh Gross, West Noble; Jalen Potter, Tippecanoe Valley; Daniel Rhoad, Guerin Catholic; Michael Schnippel, Mishawaka Marian; Cade Short-Knox; Colton Stefanich, Gibson Southern; Dustin Whitman, Jintown.

CLASS 4A OFFENSE

QB — Chase Ketterer, 6-1, 195, Sr., New Prairie
RB — Peyton Wall, 6-0, 185, Sr., Leo
RB — Cade Campbell, 5-7, 165, Sr., Mississinewa
WR — Brayden Evans, 6-1, 200, Sr., Mooresville
WR — Hayden Jones, 5-11, 185, Sr., East Noble
TE — Jason Borkholder, 6-3, 180, Sr., NorthWood
OL — Josh Fryar, 6-6, 315, Sr., Beech Grove
OL — Zac Richards, 6-3, 295, Jr., Mooresville
OL — Cade Campbell, 6-6, 265, Sr., Pendleton Heights
OL — Sam Perez, 6-2, 285, Sr., Highland
OL — Daniel Heinrich, 6-5, 260, Sr., Roncalli
K — Zac Stanley, 6-0, 180, Sr., Delta
ALL-PURPOSE — Seth Rundell, 5-9, 165, Sr., Plymouth

DEFENSE

DL — Deontae Craig, 6-4, 240, Sr., Culver Academy
DL — Brock Combs, 6-1, 225, Sr., Evansville Memorial
DL — Blake Gibbs, 6-2, 275, Sr., Boonville
DL — Blake Banter, 5-11, 245, Sr., Western LB — Bobby Babcock, 5-11, 215, Jr., Hobart LB — Mason Aaker, 5-11, 170, Sr., Evansville Memorial
LB — Brennan Schutte, 5-10, 160, Sr., Evansville Central
LB — Ryan Brandt, 6-1, 205, Sr., Angola
DB — Bailey Parker, 6-0, 185, Sr., East Noble
DB — John Alessia, 6-2, 150, Sr., Lowell
P — Nate Gard, 5-11, 145, Sr., Lowell

HONORABLE MENTION

QB — Joe Barron, Plymouth; Colton Pence, Evansville Memorial; Kalija Perry, Mooresville; Xavier Tunitis, Martinsville;

William Grieser, New Castle.
RB — D.J. Lipke, Hobart; Wesley Stitt, Delta; Baron Huebler, Roncalli; Khalid Stamps, Marion; Caid Lacey, Northridge; Jerry Padgett, Western; Shoka Griffin, Muncie Central; Jake Fike, East Central.
WR — Dawan Langston, Mt. Vernon (Fortville); Andy Myers, Martinsville; J.C. Reese, Lebanon; Jakob Reichard, Plymouth.
TE — Kyler Funk, Mississinewa; Ilias Gordon, Northview.
OL — Austin Jones, Evansville Memorial; Alex Manns, East Noble; Trevor Matovina, Lowell; JaShaun Pace, Evansville Reitz; Tylar Pomeroy, DeKalb; Luke Collinsworth, East Central; Johnny Davis, Marion; Braydon Erb, Western; Chris McGrew, New Prairie; Hunter Whiteneck, New Prairie; Collin Campbell, Greenwood.
K — Andre Sallade, Mississinewa.
DL — Zack Caladrilla, Northview; Gage Ertl, East Central; Jake Lone, NorthWood; Jack Wardzala, Roncalli; Dierre Kelly, Hammond Morton; Tyson Lee, South Bend Riley; Mason Sheron, Leo; Riley Woodin, Delta; Reggie Blackmon, Fort Wayne Wayne.
LB — Carson Park, Jasper; Landon Miller, DeKalb; Charlie Moore, Mt. Vernon (Fortville); Kyler Newcom, Lowell; Jacob VanGorder, East Noble; Jacob Boberg, Evansville Central.
DB — Matthew Benton, Hobart; Devon Donawerth, East Central; Tyler Graeber, New Prairie; Jamarrion Hutchins, New Haven; KJ Thomas, Marion; Rylan Cole, Mt. Vernon (Fortville); Joel Johnson, Hammond Morton; Zach Vode, Hobart; Keagan Labelle, Mt. Vernon (Fortville).
P — Nate Newcomer, NorthWood.

CLASS 5A OFFENSE

QB — Drew Byerly, 6-3, 230, Sr., Franklin
RB — Charlie Spegal, 5-11, 225, Sr., New Palestine
RB — Mark Brownlee, 6-1, 220, Sr., Elkhart Central
WR — Camden Jordan, 6-0, 175, Jr., Cathedral
WR — Dylan McKinney, 6-0, 185, Sr., Evansville North
TE — Aaron Steinfeldt, 6-5, 240, Jr., Bloomington North
OL — Tex Elliott, 6-5, 285, Sr., Cathedral
OL — Ben Scott, 6-6, 335, Sr., Valparaiso
OL — Luke Wingtoning, 6-6, 280, Sr., Fort Wayne Dwenger
OL — Marcus Havens, 6-5, 300, Sr., Whiteland
OL — James Bomba, 6-6, 240, Sr., Bloomington South
K — Ariel De La Paz, 5-10, 190, Sr., Concord
ALL-PURPOSE — Donovan Snyder, 5-10, 175, Sr., Mishawaka

DEFENSE

DL — Cooper Jones, 6-5, 250, Jr., Valparaiso
DL — Kyle King, 6-4, 250, Sr., New Palestine
DL — Jason Swarens, 6-4, 275, Sr., Terre Haute South
DL — Rodney McGraw, 6-6, 230, Jr., Elkhart Central
LB — Caleb McCoy, 6-0, 200, Sr., Bloomington North
LB — Devon Tippman, 6-1, 185, Jr., Fort Wayne Dwenger
LB — Quinton Cannon, 6-2, 205, Sr., Indianapolis Cathedral
DB — Maxen Hook, 6-2, 190, Sr., New Palestine
DB — Kenny Tracy, 6-1, 205, Sr., Decatur Central
DB — Shiloh Means, 6-0, 205, Sr., Indianapolis Cathedral
DB — Maddix Blackwell, 5-10, 175, Jr., Bloomington South
P — Cole Hussung, 5-10, 185, Sr., Floyd Central

HONORABLE MENTION

QB — Ethan Cain, Concord; Mason Douglas, McCutcheon; Orin Edwards, Indianapolis Cathedral; Justin Fisher, Mishawaka; Reece Lozano, Bloomington North; Brenden Lytle, Fort Wayne Dwenger; CJ Opperman, Valparaiso; Joey Paridaen, Evansville North.
RB — Marcel Atisno, Harrison (West Lafayette); Tommy Burbee, Valparaiso; Wyatt Byrd, Richmond; Omario Dixon, Harrison (West Lafayette); Patrick Finley, Fort Wayne Dwenger; Daylen Hall, Indianapolis Cathedral; Alexander Holliday-Robinson, Fort Wayne North; Carter Neveraski, Concord; Devin Pennington, Seymour; Maveric Thiery, Bloomington South; Jalen Ward, Franklin; Derrick Woods, Elkhart Memorial; Wenkers Wright, Floyd Central.
WR — Blake Austin, New Palestine; Griffin Eifert, Fort Wayne Dwenger; Kaydarius Jones, Michigan City; James Mallory, Terre Haute South; Tyren Mason, Elkhart Memorial; Christian McClure, Franklin; Amarian Moore, Concord; Bailen Murphy, Bloomington North; Luke Patterson, Valparaiso; Jake Smith, Harrison (West Lafayette).
OL — Kolby Borders, McCutcheon; Griffin Comer, Terre Haute South; Jonathon Decker, Elkhart Central; Vincent Fiacable, Fort Wayne Dwenger; Ethan Myers, Whiteland; Jaxsen Spears, Plainfield; Ethan Sergeant, Mishawaka; Nate Taylor, Bloomington South; Foster Wertz, Decatur Central.
DL — A.J. Beil, Whiteland; Matt Brown, New Palestine; Kenny Butler, Castle; Jacob Cain, Harrison (West Lafayette); Dylan Dingman, Valparaiso; Duncan Green, Goshen; Sean Holman, Elkhart Central; Isaac Lawrence, Decatur Central; Jordan Miles, Decatur Central; Noah Ponce, Bloomington North; Theopaus Redmond Jr., Fort Wayne North; Jaden Watercutter, Fort Wayne Dwenger.
LB — Spencer Arnold, Concord; Charlie Bless, Bloomington North; Cornell Branch, Michigan City; Jaden Browder, LaPorte; Ethan Corwin, Seymour; Brendan Couch, Franklin; Derrick Dawson, Mishawaka; Jack Gray, Anderson; Ethan Hensley, Bloomington South; Aven Jones, New Palestine; Conner Lutz, Terre Haute North; Josh Pennington, Seymour; Damon Porter, Decatur Central; Jacob Schultz, Whiteland; Antoine Scott, Fort Wayne Northrop; Joe Stephens, Bloomington South; Nyles Sutton, Castle; JT Thomas, Mishawaka; Quinton Wood, Harrison (West Lafayette).

NFL

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 4
Houston 22, Buffalo 19, OT
Tennessee 20, New England 13
Sunday, Jan. 5
Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT
Seattle 17, Philadelphia 9
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:35 p.m. (NBC)
Tennessee at Baltimore, 8:15 p.m. (CBS)
Sunday, Jan. 12
Houston at Kansas City, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)
Seattle at Green Bay, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
AFC, 3:05 p.m. (CBS)
NFC, 6:40 p.m. (FOX)
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
AFC vs. NFC, 3 p.m. (ESPN)
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
NFC champion vs. AFC champion, 6:30 p.m. (FOX)

NBA

— Malachi Qualls, Anderson.

**CLASS 6A
OFFENSE**

QB — Donovan McCulley, 6-5, 195, Jr.,
Lawrence North
RB — Aljajwon Hassel, 5-7, 175, Sr., Ben
Davis
RB — Donny Marcus, 6-0, 190, Sr.,
Brownsburg
WR — Preston Terrell, 6-4, 200, Jr.,
Brownsburg
WR — Richard Hamilton, 6-2, 172, Sr., North
Central
TE — Mitchell Collier, 6-2, 220, Sr.,
Columbus North
OL — Blake Fisher, 6-6, 340, Jr., Avon
OL — Ethan Crowe, 6-5, 305, Sr., Center

GOLF

Reed digs himself a hole that will be hard to escape

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HONOLULU — Patrick Reed needed a 12-foot birdie putt to win at Kapalua and return at least some attention to his bullish brand of golf.

It was an untimely miss in so many ways.

Not only did it give Justin Thomas a third chance in the playoff, which he won with a sublime sand wedge to 3 feet for birdie, it was enough time for one fan to shout the word that so many others have only whispered.

CHEATER!

The man didn't say it until the putt on the final hole — a birdie Reed knew he needed to keep playing — was halfway to the hole. But it was ugly.

It was far worse than another word often thought but rarely screamed — choke — because it speaks more to character than performance. In golf, only one is fleeing.

Reed glared up at the stands. NBC announcer Dan Hicks seized on it immediately, and before long Golf Channel was rolling the tape.

Thomas says he heard nothing, perhaps caught up in his own duties, which was making a 3-foot putt into a strong gust to win the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

Next up for Reed is the Sony Open this week in Honolulu, another chill crowd, though that's what everyone thought about Kapalua. Still

to come is Pebble Beach and the TPC Sawgrass, Harding Park for the PGA Championship and Winged Foot for the U.S. Open.

Reed really dug himself a hole in the Bahamas, and there's no easy way out.

It started with a shot from the sand in a waste area left of the 11th fairway at the Hero World Challenge, the unofficial event hosted by Tiger Woods as a holiday gift to 18 players who get \$100,000 for finishing last. Video shows Reed using his wedge to brush away sand behind his ball — twice — before his shot. That's improving his lie, and when shown a replay, Reed accepted the two-shot penalty. He really had no choice.

He did have a choice in how to explain it.

Instead, he claimed his club was far enough behind the ball — holding his hands 8 inches apart — and that he didn't feel it would have affected his lie. That was before he got into the "camera angle" defense, which induced as many snickers as raised eyebrows. Missing was a mea culpa. And it's too late for a mulligan.

The reaction in Australia the following week at the Presidents Cup was predictable because the violation was fresh and the competition was a team event, and Reed was on the visiting team. The heckling was harsh, and Reed didn't help matters by pretending to use a shovel after winning a hole.

Whether the punishment fits the crime is up for debate.

Reed was penalized two shots. A case could be made that it should have been more like two months.

But what recourse does the PGA Tour really have?

Commissioner Jay Monahan was asked about another allegation of cheating, this one at the BMW Masters in Shanghai in 2013 when Simon Dyson marked his ball, and then quickly reached over and used the ball to tamp down a spike mark in the line of his short putt.

He was disqualified the next day because of an incorrect scorecard, a rule that no longer exists. Dyson appeared before a three-member disciplinary panel — effectively a trial — and ultimately was given 18 months of probation during which he would be suspended two months for any rules violation.

The tour has no such tribunal. It has a commissioner.

"Golf is a game of honor and integrity, and you've heard from Patrick," Monahan said Sunday at Kapalua. "I've had an opportunity to talk to Patrick at length, and I believe when he says that 'I did not intentionally improve my lie.' And so you go back to that moment."

That moment was in front of a TV screen, the evidence laid bare with rules official Slugger White ready to slap him with a two-shot penalty unless Reed could make a

case. There was none to be made. He accepted the penalty.

For Monahan to punish him further is effectively calling Reed a liar. He can't do that. No one can with absolute certainty. They can only think it.

The question now is how many will say it to him.

And then it becomes a matter of how long Reed can take it.

He seems to play at his best when the world is against him, and that's what he did Sunday at Kapalua. His 66 in the final round matched the low score of the tournament. Joaquin Niemann shot 66 in breezy conditions on Thursday. Reed shot 66 in 35 mph gusts three days later.

Thomas, and then Xander Schauffele, let him into the three-man playoff, and Reed nearly pulled it off. He twice had putts to win, from 30 feet for eagle on the first extra hole at the par-5 18th, and from 12 feet for birdie on the second playoff hole.

Maybe the perception will change if he wins, though it seems unlikely, at least at this stage.

Nike took some grief for its "Winning Takes Care of Everything" ad after Woods won Bay Hill in 2013 to return to No. 1 for the first time since the scandal in his personal life.

When it comes to Reed, another Nike client, it's a question worth asking.

Would winning take care of everything?

NFL

Giants nearing deal with Pats' Judge to be coach

BY TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants and New England Patriots assistant Joe Judge are working on a deal for him to become the team's head coach, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Tuesday because the deal is not done.

Judge has won three Super Bowls with New England in eight years as an assistant on Bill Belichick's staff. He was the fifth candidate the Giants interviewed since firing Pat Shurmur last week. Among those, Mike McCarthy agreed Monday to become the Dallas Cowboys' new coach and Matt Rhule, who was supposed to interview with New York, is headed to the Carolina Panthers, according to people familiar with those situations.

The third new coach tabbed for the NFC East in a week — Ron Rivera was hired by the Washington Redskins on Wednesday — Judge would take over a team that went 4-12 and 5-11 in Shurmur's two seasons and has been to the playoffs just once since winning the Super Bowl after the 2011 season.

But the Patriots' special teams coordinator and wide receivers coach would inherit a team with a talented young quarterback in Daniel Jones and former rookie of the year running back Saquon Barkley. The Giants have the fourth pick in this year's draft.

The Patriots lost to the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night in the wild-card round.

The 38-year-old Judge has coached for 15 years. He was part of the Patriots staff that helped guide the team to Super Bowls titles in the 2014, '16 and '18 seasons.

He joined the Patriots as a special teams assis-

tant in 2012, following a three-year stint in the same role under Alabama coach Nick Saban. He won titles with the Crimson Tide in 2009 and '11. He also has coached at Mississippi State and Birmingham-Southern.

Judge was named the Patriots' special teams coordinator in 2015. New England consistently ranked as one of the NFL's top special teams units under Judge, who was also placed in charge of the Patriots' receivers in 2019. He coached kicker Stephen Gostkowski to the All-Pro team in 2015 and special teams captain Matt Slater to the same honors in 2016 and this season.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick called Judge "an excellent coach" and said he excelled in his added duties this season.

"Joe's done a great job. He's done a great job with the kicking game," Belichick said. "He's expanded the role a little bit and that's kind of had a little bit of a ripple effect in the way we've organized the kicking game, but that's all worked out pretty efficiently. Joe's done a good job of organizing that, as well as taking care on some other things with the offense and particularly receivers."

Judge met with Giants co-owner John Mara, general manager Dave Gettleman and vice president of football operations Kevin Abrams at the team's New Jersey headquarters on Monday.

The Giants had been expected this week to interview Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Baylor's Rhule.

Others interviewed were Kris Richard, the Dallas defensive assistant coach and former Seattle defensive coordinator; Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy; and Ravens defensive coordinator Don Martindale.

CFP

Continued from B1

just go play, to be honest with you, if I was writing the schedule out," Swinney said. "But hey, things always happen the way they're supposed to, and in this particular case I'm really glad that we've got a couple extra days."

This is LSU's first time in the CFP title game, but the Tigers are not letting the wait get to them. It was three weeks between LSU winning the Southeastern Conference championship over Georgia before defeating Oklahoma in the Peach Bowl to reach the championship.

"A game like this you just have to stay in your routine and don't stray from it," said quarterback Joe Burrow, the

Heisman Trophy winner. "You can really pump yourself up and get a little too excited, but I'm just going to stay in my routine, do what I've been doing, and treat it like any other week."

The break has made it easier for some fans to make arrangements, said Ted King, a lifelong Clemson fan who has been to the team's three previous trips to the CFP's final game.

He remembers a year ago trying to book flights and a hotel in California — the game was played in Santa Clara, NFL home for the San Francisco 49ers — for he and wife, Chris, before Clemson's semifinal game with Notre Dame was over.

"I am so glad for that extra week," said King, a retired executive with a utility company.

This time, the Kings will

drive South, stopping to see family in Alabama before arriving in New Orleans on Sunday. On the way back, they'll stop in Alabama and Georgia for more visits before returning to Irmo, just north of South Carolina's capital of Columbia.

"We get to have some family time and get to see the Tigers play for a title," King said.

ESPN announcer Chris Fowler said the delay was simply a quirk of this year. Teams had two bye weeks this season, something that's not normal to the game.

"Ideally, for momentum and fan interest, you don't want to wait 16 days," he said. "We will be prepared because that's a lot of time to get ready for teams that we already know."

LSU coach Ed Orgeron, a Louisiana native who has his

team on the verge of its first national title since 2007, understands some of his down time will be fielding calls from hometown people desperate for tickets.

"Obviously, we can't let it be a distraction," he said. "Obviously, it can be a distraction for me."

Where the break might most affect the game is on defense, said ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit. The teams' coordinators Dave Aranda of LSU and Brent Venables of Clemson — two of the highest paid assistants at more than \$2 million a year — will have extra study time to find flaws in the opposing defense.

"They've got the same amount of time as well," Clemson linebacker Chad Smith, "so it's going to be interesting to see how all these weeks come into play Monday."

TRC

Continued from B1

Manchester at season's end.

Southwood (2-13) at Marion, Jan. 8, 7:45 p.m., vs. Wabash, Jan. 11, 7:45 p.m.

The Knight girls' basketball team has one of the toughest schedules of the week. First, a trip to Marion to square off with one of the nation's top players in Rashaya Kyle awaits on Wednesday. The Purdue commit is averaging 26.1 points and 13.2 rebounds per game this season. The Giants hold an 11-4 record on the year with a win over Wabash.

The Apaches, meanwhile, will travel to Southwood on Saturday for a rematch from the consolation game of the Wabash County Tournament. In that contest, Alivia Short and Libby Mattern each scored 15 points for Wabash while Ashley Smith and Ella Hauptert had 15 apiece for Southwood in a 53-42 Apache win.

Manchester (4-12) at North Miami, Jan. 11, 7:45 p.m.

The Squires could not

only move over .500 in TRC play on Saturday but also add insult to injury for a North Miami squad that has struggled this year. After opening the season ranked in the Class A polls, the Warriors are just 9-5 on the year and 1-3 in conference play with losses to Tippecanoe Valley, Peru and Rochester.

The Warriors Bailey Keim's 15.4 points per game while Hannah Hall chips in 11.9 points per contest. North Miami started the year 6-1 before going just 3-4 in the last seven games, adding a loss to Taylor to three conference losses. The Warriors did win the Miami County Invitational over the holidays.

Boys' basketball

Southwood (3-5) vs. Mississinewa, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.; at Wabash, Jan. 10, 7:45 p.m.

The Knights start off the second half of the season with a pair of tough contests. Class 3A No. 15 Mississinewa visits the Knights on Wednesday followed by the Knights making a trip to reigning TRC champions Wabash on the weekend.

The Indians are led by a trio of double-digit scorers in Tai McClung (15.0 points per game), Landen Swanner (14.9) and An-

thony Horton (14.4). After starting 2-2, Mississinewa has won five straight games including taking home the Grant County 4 Tournament title.

The Knights then meet Wabash for a rematch of the opening game of the Wabash County Tournament. The Apaches used a 17-0 run in the third period in that contest to earn a 61-49 win. In last year's regular season meet, Wabash trounced Southwood by a final of 87-58.

Manchester (4-6) vs. North Miami, Jan. 10, 7:45 p.m.; Fort Wayne Canterbury, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

The Squires bounced back from a blowout loss in the Wabash County Tournament championship game by splitting a pair of games last weekend. Manchester will again have a home double-header this upcoming weekend as part of a run of games spanning over a month inside of Wabash County.

On Friday, Manchester hosts North Miami, a side with just three wins in nine games on the year. The Warriors are winless in a pair of TRC clashes so far this season and have lost three straight games and four of their last five.

On Saturday, Canterbury visits North Manchester

after a busy week of their own. The contest against Manchester will be the third game of the week for the Cavaliers, who are 4-5 entering the week. Canterbury did knock off Northfield 76-57 earlier this season, a team Manchester downed 73-40 in the Wabash County Tournament.

Northfield (1-6) vs. Smith Academy, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.; vs. Tippecanoe Valley, Jan. 10, 7:45 p.m.

The Norse will have a chance to square off with a potential sectional foe on Wednesday before returning to TRC action this weekend.

Smith Academy, a side that is 0-9 this season, will visit Northfield in the first ever meeting between the two sides. The Fighting 54th are winless on the season, averaging just 25.0 points per game while allowing 60.2.

Friday, meanwhile, will present another chance for Northfield to earn its first TRC win as the Vikings travel to Wabash County. Tippecanoe Valley is 2-7 on the year and is also winless in the TRC in a pair of games. Last season, the Vikings finished second in the conference with a 7-2 mark as part of a 15-10 season overall.

SPEGAL

Continued from B1

spots on the Class A team. Central Catholic captured the title by handing Lutheran its only loss of the season, 29-28, and both teams had four players named to the teams. The question now for Spegal and other all-state selections is what happens next?

Spegal turned down

scholarship offers from Army and Indiana State, opting instead to join the home-state Hoosiers as a preferred walk-on. In Bloomington, he hopes to prove he can be every bit as successful at the college level as he was on the prep level and adding to his long list of accomplishments by earning a scholarship, playing time and, yes, perhaps even breaking more records.

NFL

Continued from B1

The league launched the initiative last year in connection with its 32 teams and the Players Coalition, a group of players that works for social justice. Inspire Change was launched after the league and the players established a working relationship in October 2017 following player demonstrations for social justice during the national anthem. "It's really a 365 campaign for us. It doesn't ever end," said Anna Isaacson, the NFL's senior vice president of social responsibility. "We just place special emphasis at this time of year where we can shine

an even greater spotlight on the work that's being done. But the work of the clubs and the players is really happening all year long."

Isaacson said that during the playoffs, "we have a spotlight on us and so what better way to use that spotlight than to shine it on the causes that are meaningful to the players and to the clubs?"

Boldin, who also sits on the NFL Owners-Players Social Justice Working Committee, lauded the league and teams for being receptive to working with players and noted how the grants have helped reform the criminal justice systems in Florida, Louisiana and Georgia, among other places.



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Sister gets more of man's time than his wife and kids

DEAR ABBY: I don't know how to handle this. My husband of 29 years spends more time with his sister and her family than he does with me and our children. If I say anything about it, he jumps all over me, defending her. He says she doesn't have anyone to help her. But Abby, she has two grown sons and a husband she recently decided to divorce. I think his relationship with his sister is weird, and other people have said they think so, too. One person even called it creepy. When I told my husband I thought it was a weird relationship, he yelled at me. I can no longer talk about his sister with him; it's off limits. Please help. — Only The Wife

Dear Abby



DEAR ONLY THE WIFE: Has your husband always been close to this sister? It may be the reason he is spending time with her. I'm sure she wouldn't be divorcing her husband if the marriage had been a bed of roses, and she may need private time with her brother to help her detoxify.

That said, that he spends more time with his sister than with you and the children is unusual. It makes me wonder about the state of your own marriage. If there is stress and tension the two of you can't resolve together, you may need to consult a licensed marriage and family therapist.

DEAR ABBY: Our 47-year-old son remarried two years ago. We have a 15-year-old grandson from his previous marriage who lives with his mom and who visits his dad every other weekend. We are not close with our new in-laws, who live out of state.

We recently found out that they have purchased a second home very close to our son. The problem is, the home is located within a nudist colony and, therefore, we assume they are in fact nudists. Should this be a problem for us (we are both 70), or should we not be concerned? — Wondering In The South

DEAR WONDERING: I don't think there is anything to be worried about. If you are concerned that your grandson will "see" something shocking, please know that he can find whatever he is curious about on his computer or cellphone. However, if you are worried that either of you will be forced to view or participate in nude activities when you visit your son, all you have to say is, "I think we'll stay at a nearby hotel, thank you."

DEAR ABBY: I recently attended a wedding and was videotaped while I was dancing. I was shown the tape later at a family gathering. I'm not a great dancer, and I looked silly, so I asked that the video be deleted. Instead, it was passed around and everyone laughed and made fun of me. It was embarrassing and hurtful.

My husband says I'm overreacting. Am I? I said nothing and don't intend to, but I can't get it out of my mind. — Dancing Fool In Ohio

DEAR DANCING FOOL: Your feelings are your feelings. Nobody wants to be made fun of. But you have two choices: The first is to continue to stew about it. The second is to join in the laughter, admit you don't dance like a gazelle — few people do — and let it go. If you downplay it, it will go away.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Like London weather
6 Gush
11 Adult
12 Made a salary
13 Come by
14 Prepares cutlets
15 Watchful
16 Kind of cheese
17 Dweeb
18 Half a candy?
19 Stole
23 Shriveled from heat
25 Link
26 Sister of Helios
29 Out of the sack
32 Snoop
33 Embroider, maybe
34 Mosey along
35 Stockholm carrier
36 Salad dressing cheese
38 So be it
40 Org.

DOWN

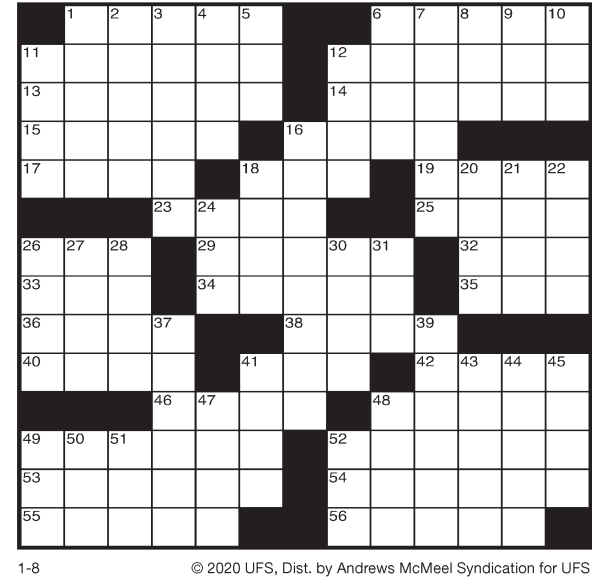
1 Aesopian narrative
2 Web-toed mammal
3 Sentinels
4 — one's teeth
5 Urge
6 Teasdale of poetry
7 Attractive
8 One, to Conchita
9 Fire engine color
10 Six-pointers

41 Nature (pref.)
42 Electrical units
46 Pout
48 Brew tea
49 Brand names
52 Fiesta decor
53 Mexican lizard
54 Forage crop
55 Clapton classic
56 Pulled along

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ROB	BBS	PICA
ELL	ROAR	ETON
ALL	ISLE	ALPO
RAPID	FALLEN	
FLY	IRE	
REESE	ELIDED	
ALSO	UCLA	PIE
MAT	ERRS	FISH
NASSAU	TICKS	
LPN	HON	
BIKINI	YANKED	
OVID	USES	EVA
LANE	MINT	PEN
ENDS	LAY	INK

11 Complain
12 Poet's black
16 Returns (2 wds.)
18 Hat feature
20 Excuse me!
21 Gumbo veggie
22 Piano parts
24 Baseball stat
26 Napoleon's island
27 Fixes a squeak
28 Observes
30 Dagwood's neighbor boy
31 Before marriage
37 Open a letter
39 Later! (2 wds.)
41 Adamson's "Born Free" lioness
43 Breathe hard
44 Doled out
45 Rigging support
47 Arm bone
48 Fodder storage
49 Rapper — Kim
50 Famous Khan
51 Pay for
52 Interest amt.



SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

	1	4		3	7			5
3	6	2	1	5				7
7						1	2	
1					2			
		7	8	6	4	3		
			3					2
	4	1						6
5				9	1	4	7	8
6			5	4		2	1	

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How to play:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	7	5	3	1	4	2	9	8
4	1	3	8	2	9	5	6	7
8	2	9	5	6	7	1	4	3
9	5	4	7	8	2	6	3	1
1	8	6	9	5	3	4	7	2
7	3	2	6	4	1	8	5	9
2	6	7	1	9	5	3	8	4
3	4	8	2	7	6	9	1	5
5	9	1	4	3	8	7	2	6

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NUYRN

GEHED

TIDYDO

PESEYL

THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BURLY EXACT WOODEN CACKLE

Answer: If you thought Earth's center could reach 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit, you'd — BE "CORE-ECT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

First we miss our flight. Now I have to pay for this?

This was the only room left.

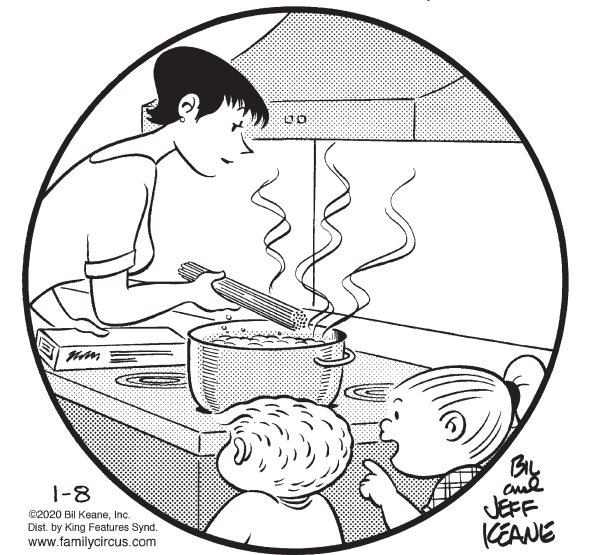
It has two toilets.

THE HOTEL ROOM WAS EXPENSIVE AND THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

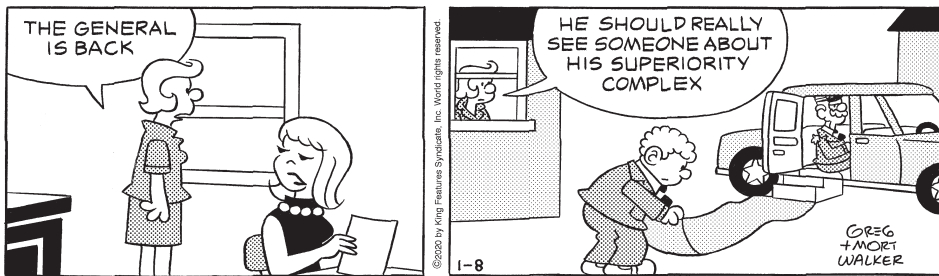
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

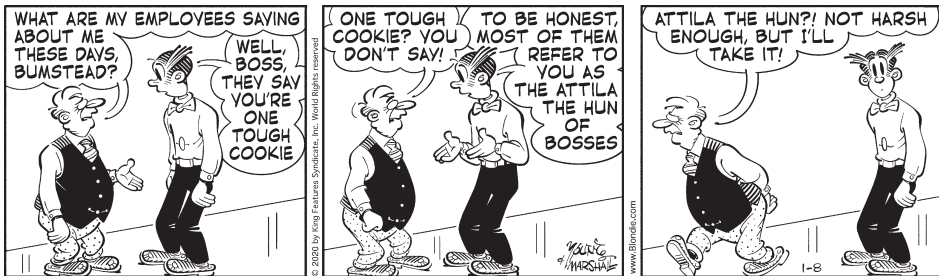


"Mommy boils the pasghetti so it can become a noodle."

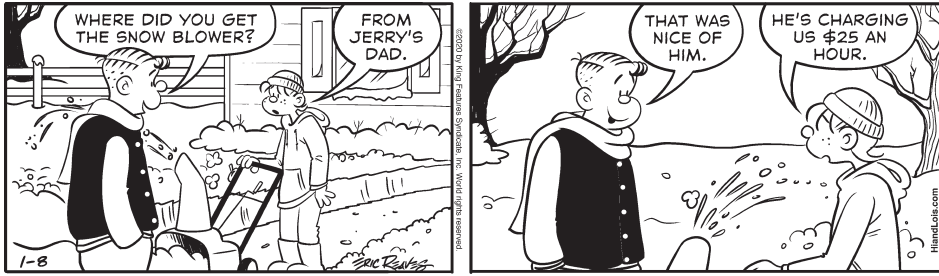
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



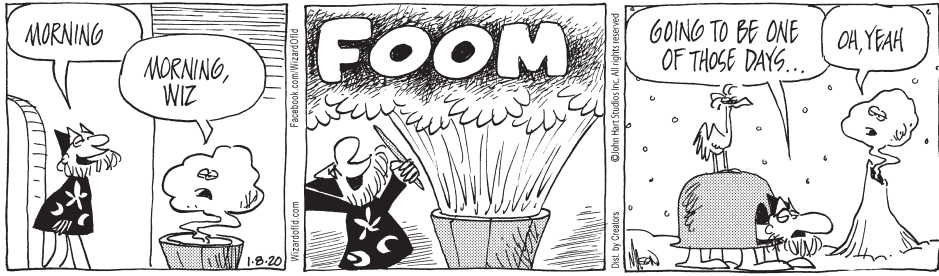
HI & LOIS



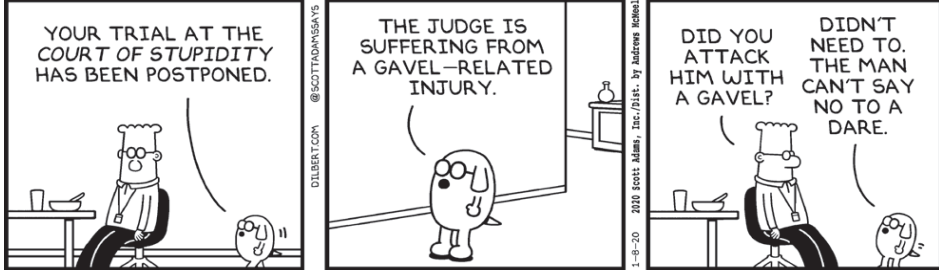
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Key to finding Heaven is finding Christ

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Should we believe that someday technology will capture a picture of Heaven? — T.G.

A: More important than Heaven capturing our imagination is the God of Heaven capturing our souls. Heaven is beyond the reach of our satellites and telescopes, but it doesn't mean that Heaven is beyond the reach of our hearts. The key to finding Heaven is finding Christ. Today's technology is performing things past generations would have never thought possible. The GPS, alone, has changed how people travel. To climb into an automobile and see a moving map on the dashboard was unthinkable not too many years ago. This device informs the driver how

long the trip will take, instructs when to turn, and even announces the arrival.

But there is something far greater that has been available to man since the beginning of time: a heavenly GPS that will bring you safely to your eternal destination in Heaven. It is called the Gospel Plan of Salvation. It only has one direction — up — and the Navigator, the Lord Jesus Christ, is "the way" (John 14:6). He appoints the time of arrival and has prepared all that is necessary to welcome us.

By nature, people are bent toward home. When we finish our day and evening activities, we generally head for our homes. Far better than any dream you can imagine is the supernatural transformation that will take place for all of God's people when He transports us to His heavenly home. We are assured that in Heaven we will be living in God's dwelling place forever, and it will be glorious beyond description. Technology will never surpass the glories of this place that Jesus is preparing for His people.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"U KUNL J KUYKYL ECJBT. U YCUXN YCJY'T HLJKKV YHFL RBH PV UXXLH GFICJ. ... PJVGL U EJX'Y YJNL YBYJK ALJEL." — PLHLIUYC MULUHJ

Previous Solution: "I attended Barbara Walters University. I could not feel more prepared to interview anyone." — Elisabeth Hasselbeck

TODAY'S CLUE: F

Stampede kills 56 at funeral for Iranian general slain by U.S.

BY NASSER KARIMI, AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A stampede broke out Tuesday at the funeral for a top Iranian general slain in a U.S. airstrike, and at least 56 people were killed and more than 200 were injured as thousands thronged the procession, Iranian news reports said.

The stampede took place in Ker- man, the hometown of Revolution- ary Guard Gen. Qassem Solei- mani, as the procession began, said Pirhossein Koulivand, head of Iran’s emergency medical services.

There was no information about what set off the crush. Online vid- eos showed people lying appar- ently lifeless, their faces covered by clothing. Emergency crews per- formed CPR on others as people wailed and cried out to God.

“Unfortunately as a result of the stampede, some of our compatriots have been injured and some have been killed during the funeral pro- cessions,” Koulivand said.

State TV reported the death toll of 56, with 213 injured, citing Koulivand.

Soleimani’s burial was delayed, with no new time given, because of concerns about the massive crowd that had gathered, the semi-official ISNA news agency said.

A procession in Tehran on Mon- day drew over 1 million people in the Iranian capital, crowding both main avenues and side streets in Tehran. Such mass crowds can prove dangerous. A smaller stamp- ede at the 1989 funeral for Aya- tollah Ruhollah Khomeini killed at least eight people and injured hundreds.

Soleimani’s death in a drone strike Friday has sparked calls across Iran for revenge against America, drastically raising ten- sions in the Middle East. The U.S. government warned ships of an unspecified threat from Iran across the region’s waterways, crucial routes for global energy supplies. Meanwhile, the U.S. Air Force launched a drill with 52 fighter jets in Utah, just days after President Donald Trump threatened to hit 52 sites in Iran.

Earlier in the day, Hossein Sali- mi, the new leader of Iran’s Revo- lutionary Guard, vowed to avenge Soleimani’s death as he addressed a crowd of supporters gathered at the coffin in a central square in Kernan.

“We tell our enemies that we will retaliate but if they take another ac- tion we will set ablaze the places that they like and are passionate about,” Salami said.

“Death to Israel!” the crowd shouted in response. Israel is a longtime regional foe of Iran.

The funeral processions in major cities over three days have been an unprecedented honor for Solei- mani, viewed by Iranians as a national hero for his work leading the Guard’s expeditionary Quds Force.

The U.S. blames him for killing U.S. troops in Iraq and accused him of plotting new attacks just before he was killed in the drone strike near Baghdad’s airport. Solei- mani also led forces supporting Syrian President Bashar Assad in that country’s civil war, and he also served as the point man for Iranian proxies in countries like Iraq, Leb- anon and Yemen.

The U.S. is continuing to rein- force its own positions in the re- gion, including repositioning some forces.

Soleimani’s slaying already has pushed Tehran to abandon the re- maining limits of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as his suc- cessor and others vow to take re- venge. In Iraq, pro-Iranian factions in parliament have pushed to oust American troops from Iraqi soil following Soleimani’s killing at the Baghdad airport.

In his eulogy to the crowd, Sa- lami praised Soleimani’s work, de- scribing him as essential to back- ing Palestinian groups, Yemen’s Houthi rebels and Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria. As a martyr, Solei- mani represented an even greater threat to Iran’s enemies, Salami said.

According to a report on Tues- day by the semi-official Tasnim news agency, Iran has worked up 13 sets of plans to avenge Solei- mani’s death. The report quoted

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, as saying that even the weakest among them would be a “historic nightmare” for the U.S. He declined to elaborate,

“If the U.S. troops do not leave our region voluntarily and upright, we will do something to carry their bodies horizontally out,” Sham- khani said.

The state-run IRNA news agen- cy later published a statement from the Supreme National Security Council denying Shamkhani made the comment.

The U.S. Maritime Administra- tion warned ships across the Mid- east, citing the rising threats. “The Iranian response to this action, if any, is unknown, but there remains the possibility of Iranian action against U.S. maritime interests in the region,” it said.

Oil tankers were targeted in mine attacks last year that the U.S. blamed on Iran. Tehran denied re- sponsibility, although it did seize oil tankers around the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of the world’s crude oil trav- els.

The U.S. Navy’s Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said it would work with shippers in the region to minimize any possible threat.

The 5th Fleet “has and will con- tinue to provide advice to merchant shipping as appropriate regarding recommended security precautions in light of the heightened tensions and threats in the region,” 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Joshua Frey told The Associated Press.

Meanwhile, Iranian Gen. Alireza Tabgsiri, the chief of the Guard’s navy, issued his own warning.

“Our message to the enemies is to leave the region,” Tabgsiri said, according to ISNA. The Guard routinely has tense encounters with the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf.

Separately, Iran summoned the British ambassador over com- ments by Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the British defense minister about Soleimani’s kill- ing, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

Iran’s parliament, meanwhile, has passed an urgent bill declar- ing the U.S. military’s command at the Pentagon and those acting on its behalf in Soleimani’s killing as “terrorists,” subject to Iranian sanctions. The measure appears to be an attempt to mirror a decision by Trump in April to declare the Revolutionary Guard a “terrorist organization.”

The U.S. Defense Department used the Guard’s terror designation to support the strike that killed Solei- mani. The action by Iran’s par- liament, done by a special proce- dure to speed it into law, comes as officials across the country threat- en to retaliate for Soleimani’s kill- ing.

The vote also saw lawmakers ap- prove funding for the Quds Force with an additional 200 million eu- ros, or about \$224 million.

Also Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the U.S. had declined to is- sue him a visa to travel to New York for upcoming meetings at the United Nations. As the host of the U.N. headquarters, the U.S. is supposed to allow foreign of- ficials to attend such meetings.

“This is because they fear some- one will go there and tell the truth to the American people,” Zarif said. “But they are mistaken. The world is not limited to New York. You can speak with American people from Tehran too and we will do that.”

Asked about Zarif, U.S. Secre- tary of State Mike Pompeo told journalists America would com- ply with its obligations under U.N. rules to grant visas. He then referred to the Iranian diplomat as “a propagandist of the first order.”

Soleimani will ultimately be laid to rest between the graves of Enayatollah Talebizadeh and Mohammad Hossein Yousef Ela- hi, two former Guard comrades killed in Iran’s 1980s war with Iraq. The two died in Operation Dawn 8 in which Soleimani also took part, a 1986 amphibious as- sault that cut Iraq off from the Persian Gulf and led to the end of the bloody war that killed 1 mil- lion people.

Putin visits Syria to meet Assad

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Rus- sian President Vladimir Putin trav- eled to Damascus on Tuesday for a meeting with President Bashar Assad, a rare visit that comes amid soaring tensions between Iran and United States following the U.S. drone strike that killed a top Iranian general.

While the official statements made during the previously unannounced visit made no mention of the killing last week of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, the timing was conspicuous.

The U.S. strike that killed Solei- mani minutes after he landed in Iraq has drawn vows of retaliation from Tehran and its proxy militias in Baghdad and Beirut. It has also led the U.S. to re-position its troops in Iraq following calls by the Iraqi Par- liament and prime minister for U.S. forces to leave the country.

Soleimani led Iran-backed forces supporting Assad in Syria’s civil war and played a key role in shoring up his army. With some 600 American troops deployed in Syria, the coun- try is a potential site of conflict with Iran.

Putin’s visit is the second to the country during the war, where his troops have been fighting alongside Syrian government forces since 2015. It comes amid a crushing Russian-backed offensive by Syrian forces on the northwestern province of Idlib, the last rebel stronghold in Syria.

Putin and Assad met at a Russian command post in Damascus, and were presented with military reports on the situation in different regions of Syria, said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

In his conversation with Assad, Putin said “a huge distance has been covered in terms of restoring Syria’s statehood and territorial integrity,” Peskov said.

To make that point, Putin and Assad visited the Syrian capital’s landmark Umayyad Mosque in the walled Old City together, where he viewed the tomb of John the Baptist who is sac- red to both Christians and Muslims.

Putin’s visit coincided with Rus- sian Orthodox Christmas, and Putin congratulated his troops on the holi- day, according to a statement from Assad’s office. Photos released by the state news agency SANA showed the two leaders visiting an orthodox cat- hedral in Damascus.

Russia joined the war in 2015, when the Syrian military appeared close to collapse. Since then, and largely be- cause of Russia’s blanket air support, the Syrian government has largely won the nearly 9-year civil war mili- tarily, and has retaken control of most of the country from rebel fighters.

In recent weeks, Syrian troops sup- ported by Russian warplanes have been pushing into the country’s last rebel stronghold, located in north- western Idlib province.

The last time Putin came to Syria was in 2017 when he announced a scale-back of the Russian military presence there. At the time, rebels were still entrenched on the out- skirts of Damascus, and he only vis- ited Russia’s Hemeimeem air base in Syria’s coastal province of Latakia. Assad previously visited Russia and met with Putin in May 2018, Novem- ber 2017 and October 2015.

Close to half a million people have been killed in Syria’s civil war and 11 million have been displaced from their homes, including 5 million who are refugees outside the country.

Australian crews race to contain blazes

BY NICK PERRY and KRISTEN GELINEAU
Associated Press

SYDNEY — Bolstered by cool- er weather and desperately needed rain, exhausted firefighters in Aus- tralia raced to shore up defenses against deadly wildfires before the blazes flare again within days when scorching temperatures are expected to return.

The first hints of the financial toll from the disaster began to emerge on Tuesday. The Insurance Council of Australia said the esti- mated damage bill had doubled in two days, with insurance claims reaching \$485 million.

That estimate comes one day af- ter Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the government was commit- ting an extra \$1.4 billion toward the recovery effort in addition to the tens of millions of dollars that have already been promised. Mor- rison’s funding announcement

came amid fierce criticism from many Australians who say he has been too slow to respond to the crisis. He has also faced backlash for downplaying the need for his government to address climate change, which experts say helps supercharge the blazes.

The fires, fueled by drought and the country’s hottest and driest year on record, have been raging since September, months earlier than is typical for Australia’s an- nual wildfire season. So far, the blazes have killed 25 people, de- stroyed 2,000 homes and scorched an area twice the size of the U.S. state of Maryland.

In New South Wales state, 130 fires were still burning on Tues- day, around 50 of which were uncontrolled. The day’s cooler, rainier weather was providing thousands of exhausted firefight- ers a “psychological and emo- tional” reprieve as they scrambled

to strengthen containment lines around the blazes before tem- peratures rise again, said Shane Fitzsimmons, commissioner of the New South Wales Rural Fire Ser- vice.

“It really is about shoring up pro- tection to limit the damage poten- tial and the outbreak of these fires over the coming days,” he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The rain was not heavy enough to extinguish the blazes. Victoria state Emergency Services Minis- ter Lisa Neville said on Monday at least 8 inches of rain would need to fall in a short time to snuff out the fires – around 20 times what has fallen across the region in the past day. And officials warned that Australia’s wildfire season – which generally lasts through March – was nowhere near its end.

The rain was also complicating firefighters’ attempts to strategi- cally backburn certain areas, and

was making the ground slippery for fire trucks.

Thousands of army, navy and air force reservists were being dispatched to battle the fires. On Tuesday, rescue crews were still trying to reach some affected com- munities. A barge was en route to Mallacoota, a coastal town in Vic- toria cut off for days by fires that forced around 4,000 residents and tourists to shelter on beaches over the weekend. About 300 people were still waiting to be evacu- ated on Tuesday. Heavy smoke squandered the navy’s efforts to airlift the stranded residents out on Monday.

“We know it’s frustrating for them,” state response controller Gavin Freeman told Australia’s Nine Network on Tuesday. “We made several attempts yesterday to get Blackhawks into them but visibility was too poor and it was too dangerous.”

6.4 quake strikes Puerto Rico amid heavy seismic activity

BY DANICA COTO
Associated Press

GUAYANILLA, Puerto Rico — A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck Puerto Rico before dawn on Tues- day, killing one man, injur- ing at least eight other peo- ple and collapsing buildings in the southern part of the island.

The quake was followed by a series of strong after- shocks, part of a 10-day series of temblors spawned by the grinding of tectonic plates along three faults be- neath southern Puerto Rico. Seismologists say it’s im- possible to predict when the quakes will stop or whether they will get stronger.

The 6.4-magnitude quake cut power to the island as power plants shut down to protect themselves. Authori- ties said two plants suffered light damage and they ex- pected power to be restored later Tuesday. Puerto Rico’s main airport was operating normally, using generator power.

“I’ve never been so scared in my life,” said Nelson Ri- vera, a 70-year-old resident who fled his home in the city

of Ponce, near the epicenter of the quake. “I didn’t think we would get out. I said: ‘We’ll be buried here.’”

Puerto Rico’s governor, Wanda Vásquez, declared a state of emergency and activated the territory’s National Guard. She said some 300,000 households remained without running water by late Tuesday after- noon, and several hundred people were in shelters in affected municipalities. She said she had not spoken to President Donald Trump by late morning.

Teacher Rey González told The Associated Press that his uncle was killed when a wall collapsed on him at the home they shared in Ponce. He said 73-year-old Nelson Martínez was disabled and that he and his father cared for him.

Eight people were injured in Ponce, Mayor Mayita Meléndez told WAPA tele- vision. Hundreds of people sat in the streets of the city, some cooking food on bar- beque grills, afraid to return home for fear of structural damage and aftershocks.

The U.S. Geological Sur- vey said the quake hit at

4:24 a.m. just south of the island at a shallow depth of six miles. It initially gave the magnitude as 6.6 but later adjusted it. At 7:18 a.m., a magnitude-6.0 aftershock hit the same area. People report- ed strong shaking and staff at a local radio station said live on air that they were leaving their building

A tsunami alert was issued for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after the initial quake, then canceled.

U.S. President Donald Trump was briefed on the earthquakes in Puerto Rico in the past month, includ- ing the one on Tuesday, said Judd Deere, White House deputy press secretary.

“Administration officials, including FEMA Adminis- trator Pete Gaynor, have been in touch with the Governor and her team today, and we will continue to monitor the effects and coordinate with Puerto Rico officials,” Deere said.

In the historic district of Ponce, authorities evacu- ated more than 150 people from two buildings they said were in danger of collapsing. Among them were more than

two dozen elderly patients from a nursing home who sat in their wheelchairs in si- lence as the earth continued to tremble.

Amir Señeriz leaned against the cracked wall of his Freemason Lodge in Ponce and wailed.

The roof of the 1915 build- ing was partially collapsed and dust and debris lay around him.

Outside, he had already carefully placed 10 large historic paintings. The earth continued trembling as he went back into the building to recover more artifacts.

Helping him was artist Nel- son Figueroa, 44, who said he slept in his street clothes.

“It was chaos,” he said, adding that there was a traf- fic jam in his coastal neigh- borhood as terrified people fled.

Much of the damage was reported in the southwest coastal town of Guayanilla, where the mayor said the municipality won’t have power for at least two weeks.

A 19th-century church in Guayanilla partially col- lapsed.

Ruth Caravallo, 73, held on

to the church’s wrought-iron gate as she cried.

“My sister was the sec- retary here,” she said. “My husband died two months ago, and I held services for him here.”

Around the corner, Fa- ther Melvin Díaz spoke to a friend on the phone and described damage to the church’s icons.

“The Virgin fell, Saint Ju- das is intact,” he said, chuck- ling.

Díaz surveyed the col- lapsed church and said he was optimistic about re- building.

“This isn’t a problem, it’s a challenge,” he said.

Some people rode their bicycles around the public plaza while others sought shade under lush trees that shook occasionally as the af- tershocks continued.

In one corner of the plaza, 74-year-old Alvin Rivera paused as he scrutinized the damage around him.

“It’s terribly sad,” he said. “People are panicked.”

A 5.8-magnitude quake that struck early Monday morning collapsed five homes in Guánica and heav-

ily damaged dozens of oth- ers. It also caused small landslides and power out- ages. The quake was fol- lowed by a string of smaller temblors.

The shake collapsed a coastal rock formation that had formed a sort of rounded window, Punta Ventana, that was a popular tourist draw in Guayanilla.

Residents in the south of the island have been terrified to go into their homes for fear that another quake will bring buildings down.

The flurry of quakes in Puerto Rico’s southern re- gion began the night of Dec. 28. Seismologists say that shallow quakes were oc- curring along three faults in Puerto Rico’s southwest re- gion: Lajas Valley, Montalva Point and the Guayanilla Canyon, as the North Ameri- can plate and the Caribbean plate squeeze Puerto Rico.

One of the largest and most damaging earthquakes to hit Puerto Rico occurred in October 1918, when a magnitude 7.3 quake struck near the island’s northwest coast, unleashing a tsunami and killing 116 people.

